"FORREST GUMP"

Screenplay

by

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Based on the novel by Winston Groom.

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FOR EDUCATIONAL
PURPOSES ONLY

A lot of this is true...

We're watching a feather, lighter then air, floating, like time passing, slowly floating by. And we see it's over a city. A breeze catches it, moving it here and there above the city. It slowly floats down past the tall buildings. It seems to hover for a moment over a busy street. And it lightly falls, and silently lands, as all things, by chance, at this place, at this time, in this street, in New Orleans.

EXT. A NEW ORLEANS STREET, THE PRESENT - DAY

And we see a Man, sitting on a Bus bench, reach to pick it up. In his forties, he looks like he smells like fish. Dirty clothes, work boots, a shopping bag filled with a conglomeration of his things alongside him, he's seemingly homeless. What distinguishes him from the faceless homeless we see everywhere, is his eyes. He has the body and the face of a man, and the eyes of a boy. He hasn't learned a thing. There's something in the way he carries himself, awkward, like a duck out of water, that he's somewhere between retarded and slow. He studies the feather for a moment, and for no particular reason puts it in his pocket. And a BLACK WOMAN, exhausted, wearing a nurses uniform, sits heavily on the Bus bench beside him. He looks at her. And he smiles. It's a sweet, stupid smile. And as if she cared:

THE MAN
Hello, I'm Forrest. I'm Forrest Gump.

She nods, not much interested. He takes an old candy kiss out of his pocket. Offering it to her:

FORREST (cont'd)
Do you want a chocolate?

She shakes "no." He unwraps it, popping it in his mouth.

FORREST (cont'd)
I could eat about a million and a half of these. Mama said, "Life was just a box of chocolates..."

(CONTINUED)

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And he smiles, a chocolatey smile. She's impassive. And he notices her white nurse's shoes:.

FORREST (cont'd)
(admiring her shoes)
Those must be very comfortable shoes. I'll bet you could walk all day in those shoes and not feel a thing.

She doesn't say anything.

FORREST (cont'd)
I'd sure like a pair of shoes like that.

All she can say is:

THE BLACK WOMAN
My feet hurt.

FORREST
(oblivious)
Mama said you could tell an awful lot about a person by their shoes. Where they've been, and where they're going...Floppy ones and shiny ones, and all laced up ones...

She doesn't say anything.

FORREST (cont'd)
(after a beat)
I've worn a lot of shoes...
(his smile)
I guess you could say I've lived a pretty interesting life, so to speak...

She closes her eyes, too tired to listen.

FORREST (cont'd)
If I think about it real hard I bet I could remember my first pair of shoes...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He closes his eyes, thinking real hard.

FORREST (cont'd)
Mama said they would take me anywhere. They were magic shoes...

And as he keeps his eyes shut real tight:

INT. A DOCTOR'S OFFICE, GREENBOW MISSISSIPPI, 1952 - DAY

We're looking at a wall calendar. "1952." A COUNTRY DOCTOR'S office. And a small BOY, six, in his underwear, is sitting on an examining table, being fitted by a Doctor with orthopedic shoes and metal leg braces. A pretty YOUNG WOMAN, in a plain coat, holding a hat in her hand, is anxiously watching.

THE DOCTOR
(a drawl)
...His spine's crooked Mrs. Gump. Crooked as a politician. We're going to straighten him right up...Aren't we Forrest?

He helps him off the table. Forrest stands with the mechanical contraption on his feet.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Take a little walk around.

Forrest unsteadily clanks around the room.

THE DOCTOR (cont'd)
Now how do those feel?

As Forrest smiles his sweet smile:

EXT. GREENBOW, MISSISSIPPI, 1952 - DAY

Little Forrest, in his leg braces, holding his mother's hand, walks with her along the dusty main street of a small southern town. A breeze ruffles their clothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
...When I was born my mama named me Forrest, because of General Nathan Bedford Forrest who was a hero in the Civil War. Mama always said we was kin to General Forrest's family someways. And he was a great man, she said, except he started up the Ku Klux Klan after the war -- The Grand Exalted Pisposh, or whatever he called himself....

EXT. RURAL MISSISSIPPI, 1870'S - NIGHT

And we see The Grand Exalted Pishposh himself, in his hooded sheet, leading Klansmen on a night ride. They come riding into a shanty-town, setting it on fire, rounding up Black Men and hanging them.

FORREST (OVER)
...Anyways, they were runnin' around in their underwear and their sheets hanging everyone in sight, and the General's horse tripped or something, and the General fell into a bunch of mud...

We see the Grand Exalted Pisposh taking a tumble into some mud.

FORREST (OVER)
...And in the confusion, seeing how it was dark out, and him being covered with mud, they must of mistaken the General for somebody else...

Some Klansmen suddenly throw a rope around the muddy General's neck...

FORREST (OVER)
...Because they hung him, too...

And we see the Grand Exalted Pisposh, not so grand anymore, hanging from a tree with four Black Men.

EXT. GREENBOW, MISSISSIPPI, 1952 - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
Anyways, that's how I got my name...Mama said it was to remind me we all make mistakes...

And as they move along the dusty street, little Forrest clanking in his braces, people stop what they're doing, watching them pass. And Mrs. Gump slows, looking at the faces.

MRS. GUMP
(sharp)
What are you all looking at? Ain't you ever seen a boy with braces on his legs before?

And as the team of Gump and Gump move off along the street:

MRS. GUMP (cont'd)
(to her son)
Don't ever let anybody tell you they're better then you, Forrest...

Little Forrest looks back at the people watching him.

MRS. GUMP (cont'd)
Remember what I told you? We all got sponges in our heads. Some people just got a bigger sponge then other people. You got to make the best of what God gave you.

And we see Forrest's MIND'S EYE view. In ANIMATION, people walking around with different size sponges for heads. And as Forrest, holding his mother's hand, moves off along the dusty road under some weeping willows:

FORREST (OVER)
Mama wanted me to have the finest education...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, MISSISSIPPI, 1954 - DAY

Forrest, now eight, and still in his leg braces, sits, like a Norman Rockwell painting, waiting in an empty hallway outside of a Principal's office. The door's ajar. And Mrs. Gump, her hat in her lap, is talking with a Balding Man.

THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
...His I.Q. is 75 Mrs. Gump. The state requires a minimum I.Q. of 80 to attend public school. He's going to have to go to a "special school"...They'll teach him a trade...

MRS. GUMP
(indignant)
My Forrest is no different than anybody else -- just a little slower maybe...He isn't going to a "special school" to learn how to retread tires. We're talking about five little points here... There must be something that can be done...

The Balding Man studies her, attracted to her.

THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
We're a progressive school system, we don't want to see anybody left behind...
(smiling)
Is there a Mr. Gump, Mrs. Gump?

MRS. GUMP
(fingering her hat)
Mr. Gump's on vacation.

THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
(a beat)
Well, like I said, we're at the forefront of education. We might just be able to work something out...

He smiles his most charming smile. The school bell rings, classes letting out. As Forrest sits in the hall, looking at all the other children:

EXT. A BOARDING HOUSE, MISSISSIPPI, 1954 - NIGHT

An old three-story wood frame boarding house. "The Gump House." Rocking chairs line a porch. A full moon's out. And we see little Forrest sitting on the steps of the front porch. And the stillness of the night is punctuated by the sounds of the grunts of a man building to an orgasm..."Uh, uh, uh, uh, uh, ahhhhh...!" Then it's quiet. Some moments, and the door opens. And the Balding man, putting on a hat, comes out. He pats Forrest's head.

THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
Your mama sure does care about you, son...

And Forrest's response is:

FORREST
(imitating him, grunting)
"Uh, uh, uh, uh, uh, ahhhhhh...!"

INT. FORREST'S BEDROOM, THE BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT

Forrest's lying in bed, his mother sitting on the bed, quietly reading a book to him. After some moments:

FORREST
(meaning his father)
What's a "vacation," mama?

MRS. GUMP
When you go somewhere and don't ever come back.

FORREST (OVER)
I guess when I was about three, and still didn't know how to say two words, my father saw how I was a mental midget, and decided to take a long vacation.

EXT. THE GUMP BOARDING HOUSE, 1949 - NIGHT

And a Young Man, Forrest's Father, is standing on the porch looking at the moon. And we see Forrest's mother in an upstairs window holding little Forrest. And the young Man walks off the porch. And as he walks off along the country road, his hands in his pockets, walking toward the moon:

INT. FORREST'S ROOM, THE BOARDING HOUSE, 1954 - NIGHT

Forrest's mother sitting on the bed reading to him.

FORREST (OVER)
I learned years later my father was killed in a boating accident.

EXT. A FREIGHTER, ANOTHER TIME - DAY

We see steveadores unloading a cargo of bananas. As a crane drops a load of bananas on one of the men, burying him:

INT. FORREST'S ROOM, THE BOARDING HOUSE, 1954 - NIGHT

Forrest's mother softly reading to him.

MRS. GUMP
"...George was curious. Could he play too...?" George sneaked over to the dugout. The balls and bats used for practice were lying on the ground.

Forrest shuts his eyes. And we see his vision. An ANIMATED, cartoon vision of the world. An idiot's vision. Forrest, seeing himself as the monkey Curious George.

MRS. GUMP (OVER)
"How good that George was a monkey!" "He held the bat in his hands and tossed the balls with his feet..."

As Forrest drifts off to sleep, monkey visions running around his head, his mother, sitting on the bed, softly reading to him, sad tears rolling down her cheeks:

FORREST (OVER)
I didn't really notice my father was gone for a long time, 'cause people were always coming and going in our house...

INT. "THE GUMP" BOARDING HOUSE, 1954 - DAY

Forrest, clanking around the busy boarding house.

FORREST (OVER)
One time, for about a week, this young man was staying with us. He was on a tour.

INT. "THE GUMP" BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT

And we hear a very familiar voice singing: "Are You Lonesome Tonight..." And we see little Forrest, curious, looking in a guest room.

FORREST (OVER)
He was always real polite and seemed kind of alone to me.

And sitting on a bed, strumming a guitar, is the young Elvis himself.

FORREST (OVER)
He asked me if I knew how to play a guitar and I didn't, so he showed me a thing or two.

Elvis shows him how to finger it. Forrest strums a chord. He smiles, delighted.

FORREST (OVER)
And it felt good that guitar and I just started to move along with the music swinging my hips...

And since his leg braces restrict his movements, he swings his little hips. Elvis laughs.

FORREST (OVER)
And that young man said that was pretty good, and he copied me.

Elvis imitates him, swinging his hips. And a King is born.

FORREST (OVER)
Some years later that handsome young man had sung too many songs and had a heart attack.

As Elvis smiles at Forrest:

FORREST (OVER)
My life was about to change forever...

EXT. A COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

And we see little Forrest, in his leg braces, standing in a rural road, waiting for something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

After some moments, a School Bus comes along the road, coming to a stop. The doors open. Forrest is motionless.

THE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER
Are you coming along?

FORREST
(shakes "no")
Mama said not to be taking rides from strangers.

THE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER
This is the bus to school.

Forrest won't budge. They're at an impasse. The children look out the window at him. After some moments:

FORREST
I'm Forrest Gump.

THE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER
I'm Dorothy Harris.

FORREST
(nods, smiles, and it makes perfect sense)
Well, now, we ain't strangers anymore.

And he gets on the bus.

INT. SCHOOL BUS - DAY

The bus pulls off. Forrest clanks along the aisle looking for a seat. The children all stare at him, afraid of him. Forrest only smiles. He starts to sit by a boy.

THE BOY
This seat's taken...

Forrest just smiles, accepting it. He goes for another seat.

ANOTHER BOY
It's taken...

Forrest stupidly smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A GIRL'S VOICE (OVER)
You can sit here...

He turns. And a little Girl with curls, pats the seat next to her. And in Forrest's eyes, she's a vision. In his MIND'S EYE, in the light and shadows through the bus window, she has an ANGEL'S GOSSAMER WINGS. JENNY CURRAN.

FORREST (OVER)
I had never seen anything so beautiful in all my life...

Forrest smiles, sitting next to her. As they ride:

JENNY
How come you have those things on your legs?

FORREST
I'm crooked, like a question mark. Mama said these are going to make me straight as an arrow.
(a beat, admiring her dress)
That's a very pretty dress.

JENNY
(self-consciously smoothing her dress)
It's my party dress.

FORREST
(a beat)
What's a party?

JENNY
Haven't you ever been to a party?

He shakes "no." She looks at him.

JENNY (cont'd)
Are you stupid or something?

FORREST
(shrugs, smiles)
Mama said, "stupid is as stupid does..."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And she smiles, taken by his sweet honesty.

JENNY
(shakes his hand)
I'm Jenny.

FORREST
(shaking her hand)
I'm Forrest. Forrest Gump.

And as he contentedly smiles, happy to be riding the bus, going to school with an angel:

FORREST (OVER)
Jenny and I were like two peas in a pod. From that day on we were always together. She was my most special friend in the whole wide world...

INT. AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASS - DAY

Forrest, now about ten, sits next to Jenny taking a test. He sees her chewing on a pencil, thinking. He starts chewing on his pencil, copying her, thinking. The pencil tastes good. He keeps on chewing. Before long, he's eaten the entire pencil. Jenny looks at him. And as he stupidly smiles, his mouth full of lead and wood:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

And we see Forrest and Jenny, Forrest clanking in his leg braces, walking home from school. And some boys are ahead of them. They start taunting Forrest, calling him the idiot that he is.

JENNY
Just ignore them...

FORREST
What does ignore mean?

JENNY
Don't pay any attention.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
(guileless)
I don't ever pay any attention to anything...

The boys start throwing rocks at him. He lets them bounce off of him, smiling. They keep pelting him. He starts to bleed.

JENNY
Run, Forrest, run...

But he just stupidly smiles.

JENNY (cont'd)
Run, Forrest. Run as fast as you can...

And he starts to run. The boys, throwing rocks, chasing him.

JENNY (OVER)
(shouting)
Run, Forrest...run...!

And he runs faster. And faster. And despite his braces, he has an ungodly speed. He starts distancing himself from the boys. It's a gift, this gift of speed. And as he runs, faster and faster...Jenny's voice far in the distance: "Run Forrest, run...!"

FORREST (OVER)
Once, when I was being chased home from school, there was all these people singing and dancing, having a regular celebration on the Mechanic's Bridge.

EXT. A BRIDGE IN MISSISSIPPI - DAY

Forrest comes running along a riverbank. He slows. And he sees, on a bridge over the river, a civil rights march. And we see leading the march, a young minister, the young Martin Luther King. The marchers are clapping hands, singing, "Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around...", as they approach a phalanx of Mississippi Police with their police dogs. And suddenly, the Police let loose their dogs. The animals ripping and tearing into the marchers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
Now, I grew up with them dogs since they were little pups, and I knew they must have been confused, because they weren't really mean or anything at all.

And we see Forrest coming through the melee on the bridge, calling to the dogs:

FORREST
Rusty, Lad, Prince...

And the dogs, hearing their friend, come running to Forrest, playfully jumping on him.

FORREST (cont'd)
(to the dogs, stern)
Now you go home...Go on ahead...

And the dogs, much to the policemen's chagrin, run off for home. And Forrest, apologizing for the dogs, to the young Martin Luther King:

FORREST
I'm sorry they interrupted your singing...They don't know any better...

As the young Dr. King smiles:

FORREST (OVER)
Some years later outside a motel room in Memphis, Tennessee, somebody shot that nice minister dead.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A TREE - DAY

Blossoms blow on a breeze. And Forrest and Jenny, still youngsters, (Forrest no longer in leg braces), are sitting in a tree together watching the world go by.

FORREST (OVER)
Jenny lived in a house that was as old as the south. Her father was a cotton farmer.

EXT. A COTTON FARM - DAY

A small sharecropper's shack. Jenny's father a dirt poor tenant farmer. White trash.

FORREST (OVER)
Her father was a loving man. He was always kissing and touching her.

And we see Forrest knocking on the shack's door.

FORREST
Jenny...

There's no answer. He turns, walking around the shack, looking for her.

FORREST (cont'd)
Jenny...

It's quiet. He walks out into the cotton fields. And he sees Jenny, with bruises on her face, in a party dress, sitting in the dirt amongst the cotton. And there's blood on her party dress. And suddenly, there's a man's voice:

JENNY'S FATHER'S VOICE (OVER)
(calling)
Jenny...!

JENNY
(to Forrest)
Come on...

And she takes his hand, running with him deep into the cotton fields, hiding from her father.

FORREST (OVER)
Jenny said we should pray.

They kneel.

FORREST (OVER)
And we got on our knees. And she prayed to God He would turn her into a bird, so she could fly far, far, away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JENNY'S FATHER'S VOICE (OVER)
(in the distance)
Jenny..!

And at the sound of Jenny's father coming through the fields, a flock of birds, frightened, fly off. And as Forrest and Jenny on their knees, praying, watch them fly away:

FORREST (OVER)
This one time I was in bed, sleeping...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FORREST'S ROOM, THE BOARDING HOUSE, ANOTHER TIME - NIGHT

It's dark. Forrest, a teenager, in bed asleep. And we see Jenny, now about thirteen, silently coming into the room, and crawling into bed with him.

FORREST (OVER)
She said her father had a farm accident...

EXT. THE SHARECROPPER'S SHACK - DAY

And we see Jenny's father standing in the cotton field, his back to a horse and plow, bending, looking at some cotton. And Jenny, bruises on her face, comes out of the house. She comes to stand by the horse, silently looking at her father. She suddenly smacks the horse's rump. And the horse, spooked, takes off, running the plow right over her father.

INT. FORREST'S ROOM, THE BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT

Jenny lying in bed with Forrest.

JENNY
(softly)
...Accidents happen...

FORREST (OVER)
And even though it was her loving father and all she never cried or anything...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER) (cont'd)
She just squwoze me so hard like to take my breath away...

And as they lie in bed, Jenny holding onto him for dear life:

FORREST (OVER)
We went right up through school together...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MAIN STREET, GREENBOW MISSISSIPPI - DAY

A High School Homecoming Parade. And we see Jenny, with a sad, Mona Lisa smile, wearing a crown, riding in a car, waving.

FORREST (OVER)
She was Homecoming Queen...And she picked me as her prince...

And we see Forrest sitting next to her, a smiling idiot in his crown, stupidly waving, too. Somebody throws an egg, hitting Forrest in the face. And as he just keeps waving, with egg on his face:

FORREST (OVER)
I didn't know it, but my life was about to make a right hand turn...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

And we see Forrest and Jenny, teenagers, walking home from school. And the same boys, teenagers now, are ahead of them. They start taunting Forrest, throwing rocks at him again.

JENNY
Run, Forrest, run...!

And he starts to run. The boys, throwing rocks, chasing him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JENNY (OVER)
(shouting)
Run, Forrest...just keep running...!

And as he runs, faster and faster...Jenny's voice far in the distance: "Run Forrest, run...!"

FORREST (OVER)
I was chased so many times I could run faster then anybody in the world...

And as he runs, and runs...

FORREST (OVER)
And word got around, and although I can't say I learned much in school, my favorite class being lunch, I got famous, and all sorts of people came to visit mama and me...

EXT. THE GUMP HOUSE - DAY

And a man in a hat and suit, drinking lemonade, is sitting in a rocking chair on the front porch, talking with Forrest and his mother.

FORREST (OVER)
They said people would love to see me run...

EXT. THE COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

And as Forrest runs farther and farther away, to wherever it will take him...There's suddenly the sound of a huge CROWD roaring...

FORREST (OVER)
And they sent me to a place where I could run all I wanted to...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA STADIUM, 1962 - DAY

And we see a COACH, much like Bear Bryant in his trademark plaid hat, shouting: "Run you stupid son-of-a bitch!" "Run, run...!" And we see assistant coaches, and football players along the sidelines, all of them shouting: "Run... run...!" And we see players on the field, in the red uniforms of the Crimson Tide, yelling, "Run...! "Run...!" And we finally see the object of their urging. Forrest, now about eighteen, carrying a football, being chased by four defensemen, is running toward the goal line. And everybody's shouting, "Run Forrest, run...! And run he does. Forrest, running out of fear and instinct, running all the way into the end zone. The crowd goes bezerk. The coaches all signalling touchdown. And Forrest, holding the ball, just stupidly standing in the end zone.

THE REFEREE
(coming over)
Helluva run. Give me the ball now, son.

Forrest looks at the Referee. He looks around him at the crowd, at the faces of the people watching him. And in his MIND'S EYE, in ANIMATION, he pictures the stadium filled with people with sponges for heads. And he has a small moment of individuality, a small moment of rebellion, and he shakes "no," he won't give the Referee the ball.

THE REFEREE (cont'd)
(trying to take it)
I said give me the ball, son.

And Forrest runs off with the ball. His players try to get it away from him. He zig-zags by them, taking off, his players in pursuit.

THE COACH
(with consternation)
He must be the stupidest son of a bitch alive...But he sure is fast...

And as Forrest runs away with the ball, all the Referee can do is throw a penalty flag:

FORREST (OVER)
It was very confusing times...

EXT. THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, 1962 - DAY

Forrest comes across campus. And there's a huge crowd outside the Administration Building. Police holding back people from the building's steps. Television crews. And we see the object of their attention: A young BLACK GIRL, and a young BLACK BOY, carrying school books, are being led by Federal Marshal's, under the protection of the National Guard, up the steps. And a little Man in a suit, pugnaciously standing with his arms folded across his chest, is blocking the building's door. Governor George Wallace. And the angry crowd's shouting: "Niggers Go Home!" "Niggers Go Home!" And Forrest, joining the crowd, comes over to a young football player, EARL:

FORREST
(confused)
What's all the shouting about, Earl?

EARL
Niggers are trying to get into school.

FORREST
(ignorant)
What's a nigger?

EARL
(laughs, to his friends)
Forrest doesn't know what a nigger is...
(motioning)
Them's niggers...A nigger, Forrest, is somebody you don't want to be.

FORREST
(not understanding)
I don't want to be you either, Earl. I don't want to be anybody but me.
(looking at the young boy and girl, shrugging)
They look just like a lot of the people down where I come from. I don't see nothing wrong with them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EARL
(gives up)
You're just too dumb to understand.

Forrest watches as the young Black Boy and Girl are escorted up the steps. And the young boy drops one of his school books. And Forrest, innocently, just doing what's natural for him, crosses to pick up the boy's book. He gives it to him. And as the cameras roll for history, Forrest stupidlly walking up the steps with the young Black students as they integrate The University of Alabama:

FORREST (OVER)
A few years later that little man at the schoolhouse door ran for president, and somebody shot him, and he ended up all paralyzed in a wheelchair...I sure wouldn't have wanted to be him.

INT. THE FOOTBALL DORM, UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, 1962 - DAY

Forrest is sitting in his room, looking out the window, picking his nose.

FORREST (OVER)
Seeing as how "niggers" were allowed in school like everybody else then, they figured they'd make the best of it. And since I was too stupid to know a "nigger" from a knothole, they gave me a new roommate.

The door opens.

FORREST (OVER)
The first negro football player ever to play there.

And standing in the door is a huge young Black Man, with the sweet disposition of a cow, a man born to block, BUBBA BLUE.

FORREST (OVER)
Bubba was from Bayou La Batre, Louisiana. His family was in the food business...

INT. A KITCHEN, SOMEWHERE IN LOUISIANA, 1962 - NIGHT

FORREST (OVER)
His mama was...

And we see a robust woman in a cook's uniform, Bubba's mother, working in a wealthy family's kitchen.

FORREST (OVER)
...And her mama, and her mama, and her mama before her...

INT. A MUCH EARLIER KITCHEN, SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH, 1860 - NIGHT

And we see another woman in Bubba's line, in a cook's uniform, a slave, working in a plantation's kitchen.

FORREST (OVER)
I guess you could say they knew all there was to know about food.
(a beat)
Now there's no denying I'm not very smart. But Bubba didn't have much upstairs either.

INT. THE FOOTBALL DORM, FORREST'S ROOM, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, 1962 - NIGHT

Football players crowd the room. And Bubba, at their urging, is performing a trick for them. He's bent over, his big ass to them. He lights a match, holding it by his wide ass. And he farts, the match shooting a blue flame from the gas, a tremendous "blue darter." And the boys applaud. As Bubba smiles, trying to be one of the "good ol' boys":

FORREST (OVER)
I got to know Bubba's ass pretty well...They painted his number on it so I couldn't miss it...

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM, THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, 1962 - DAY

And we see Bubba's number painted on his ass. And we see he's running downfield, blocking, in a football game.

FORREST (OVER)
And they told me, all I had to do was keep behind his big ass until I saw daylight...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And we see, right on Bubba's ass, carrying the ball, the fleetfooted Forrest. Bubba's cleared a path for him. And in Forrest's MIND'S EYE there's nothing but endless grass and glorious daylight. It's exhilirating. Forrest, like a deer, running free...And as he runs, and runs, and runs...

FORREST (OVER)
Bubba was my best good friend...

INT. FORREST'S ROOM, UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, 1962 - NIGHT

It's quiet, dark. Forrest and Bubba lying in their bunk beds. After some moments:

BUBBA
You ever get lonely Forrest?

FORREST
What's lonely mean, Bubba?

BUBBA
When you feel so low everything looks like it's up.

FORREST
Mama always said you have to think like you're taller then everybody else...

And in ANIMATION we see Forrest's world view. Forrest, the tallest man around, a gentle giant, smiling down at everyone else.

BUBBA
I miss my family. Sometimes I feel like I'm the only one around.

FORREST
(simply)
We have each other, Bubba.

And Forrest reaches down from the top bunk to give him his hand. Bubba holds his hand. And as big and little stupid go to sleep holding hands:

EXT. THE BUS STOP, NEW ORLEANS, THE PRESENT - DAY

The Black Nurse, not paying any attention to him, has her eyes closed, resting. A Bus pulls up. She opens her eyes, seeing it's her bus. And getting up, she gets on the bus.

FORREST
(after her)
It's been nice talking to you...

He watches the bus pull away. And another Woman, a young harried woman, holding a child, has taken the Black Woman's seat.

FORREST
(smiles)
Hello, I'm Forrest. Forrest Gump...

The Woman doesn't say anything.

FORREST (cont'd)
I was just saying how life can get awful confusing sometimes.

She's quiet, looking for her bus.

FORREST (cont'd)
Sometimes, it's even hard to understand your friends...

EXT. A GIRLS COLLEGE, SOMEWHERE IN ALABAMA, 1963 - NIGHT

And we see Forrest, carrying a box of chocolates, crossing the campus of a small southern girls' school.

FORREST (OVER)
Jenny went to a girl's school an hour away from me. I went to visit her every chance I could.

He goes into a dorm.

INT. JENNY'S DORM - NIGHT

Excited to see her he impatiently waits in a lounge. He instinctively turns. And Jenny, her hair done in the period, the first glimmerings of a hippie, is standing in the doorway. There's a deep, inherent sadness about her, that she tries to cover with her smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
(awkwardly)
I brought you something.

He gives her the box of chocolates.

FORREST (cont'd)
(embarrassed)
I ate some.

And she sees the box having been opened, has been hastily re-wrapped. She affectionately smiles.

FORREST (cont'd)
(after a beat)
Mama sent me twenty dollars. I want to spend it all on you.

JENNY
Come over here...Let's sit down and talk, Forrest...

He sits with her in a corner of the lounge.

JENNY (cont'd)
We're good friends, aren't we Forrest?

FORREST
(nods, smiles)
You're my most special friend...

JENNY
And you're mine, too. And I love when you come to see me. But sometimes I wish you'd let me know when you're coming.
(awkward)
I have plans tonight.

And as if on cue a Young Man has come into the lounge.

THE YOUNG MAN
Jenny...

Jenny smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JENNY
(after a beat)
David, this is Forrest.

David shakes Forrest's hand.

FORREST
(guileless)
We could all spend mama's twenty dollars.

JENNY
I'm going out with David, Forrest...Just the two of us...
(a beat)
I need you to understand...

And Forrest struggles to understand. And with his inimitable logic:

FORREST
(giving her the money)
If I'm not doing anything I won't be needing mama's money...

JENNY
You keep it...We'll use it another time...

But he shakes "no," he won't take it back.

JENNY (cont'd)
(affectionately)
I'll hold onto it for you...

THE YOUNG MAN
We should be going...

Jenny nods. She looks at Forrest.

JENNY
Please don't hate me.

FORREST
I could never hate you.

Jenny kisses him, and turning with the young man, crosses out of the dorm. Forrest crosses to the door. As he watches them drive away:

EXT. DORMITORY, THE GIRLS' SCHOOL - NIGHT

It's raining. And we see that Forrest has been sitting on a bench outside the dorm in the rain, waiting all night for Jenny to come home. The Young Man's car pulls into a parking lot. The lights go off. It's still. And there's the sounds of heavy breathing, and frenzied activity, punctuated by Jenny's muffled shouts of passion. And Forrest, concerned for her, runs to the car. He can see in the window Jenny and the young man in the back seat. Her dress is hiked up, the young man on top of her, the two of them wrestling in the throes of passion. And Forrest, mistaking her pleasure for pain, suddenly yanks the door open. And pulling the startled young man off of her, he starts hitting him.

JENNY
(stopping Forrest)
Stop it...! Stop it, Forrest...!

Forrest stops. Jenny quietly says something to the young man. He gives Forrest a look, and getting in the car, drives away. Jenny and Forrest quietly stand in the rain. She fixes her dress.

FORREST
I thought he was hurting you...

And he awkwardly, lovingly, wipes the rain off her face with his shirt tail.

FORREST (cont'd)
(truly)
I'm sorry...I'll go home now...

And he starts to walk off. And it's impossible for her not to forgive him:

JENNY
(after him)
Forrest...It's raining.
(innocent)
Do you want to sleep over?

INT. JENNY'S DORM - NIGHT

Jenny, and Forrest, carrying their shoes, tip-toe along a dark hallway. Jenny motions him to be quiet. Unlocking her door, they go into her room.

INT. JENNY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jenny's roommate is asleep. And Jenny and Forrest, the best of friends, lie in Jenny's bed, the rain running down the window.

JENNY
Do you ever dream, Forrest?

And like a little boy he shuts his eyes, as if he's dreaming.

FORREST
Sometimes I can't tell what's a dream and what isn't.

JENNY
(smiles)
No, I mean, dream about who you're going to be.

FORREST
(doesn't understand)
Going to be?
(concerned)
Aren't I going to be me?

JENNY
(reassuring him)
You'll always be you. Just another kind of you.

He tries to understand.

JENNY (cont'd)
I want to be famous...

And there's a sadness.

JENNY (cont'd)
I want people to notice me...

And it's quiet, the rain on the window. After some moments:

JENNY (cont'd)
(whispers)
Have you ever been with a girl, Forrest?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He doesn't know what she means.

FORREST
I sit in class with them all the time.

She looks in his sweet eyes. And she unbuttons her nightgown. Forrest looks at her breasts. She takes off her nightgown. He looks at her naked body. And in his MIND'S EYE, she has an angel's gossamer wings.

JENNY
You can kiss me anywhere you want.

He hesitates, and then kisses her breasts. And he can't help himself, and he shudders, ejaculating.

FORREST
(sorry)
I got you all wet.

JENNY
(tenderly)
It's alright. You didn't do anything wrong...

She lays her head on his chest, closing her eyes. It's quiet. And Forrest, for a moment, painfully aware of his inadequacies, has tears in his eyes. And as they lie in her bed, the best of friends, the rain running down the window:

FORREST (OVER)
...Bubba and me were named to something called the All Americans. We went to Washington to visit the President of The United States.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE WHITE HOUSE, THE OVAL OFFICE, 1963 - DAY

And we see Forrest and Bubba, uncomfortable in their suits, standing with a group of All American Football Players. Photographers snap pictures. We hear a distinctive voice. And we see the young President Kennedy moving along the row, shaking hands with the young athletes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
We had driven for two days to get to Washington. And I was drinking Dr. Pepper's all along the way. By the time we got to the White House I was full up.

The President stops to shake hands with Forrest.

PRESIDENT KENNEDY
How are you doing?

And Forrest can only say what's on his mind:

FORREST
I got to go pee...

INT. THE OVAL OFFICE BATHROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

Forrest taking a pee in the oval office bathroom.

FORREST (OVER)
Six months later, for no particular reason, somebody shot that nice young president's brains out.

Forrest flushes, turning out of the bathroom. President Kennedy, waiting outside the door, smiles at him.

FORREST (OVER)
About a year later a man came to talk to Bubba and me about our futures.

EXT. THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, FOOTBALL PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

And we see Forrest and Bubba, in their practice uniforms, talking to a man in an Army uniform.

THE ARMY MAN
...You boys ever thought about being heros?

FORREST
What's a hero?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE ARMY MAN
Somebody who's willing to make a sacrifice. We're forming a unit of select individuals who are prepared to fight for their country. Your college suggested you might be the kind of young men we're looking for.

Forrest and Bubba don't quite know what to say.

FORREST
I'd have to ask my mama.

THE ARMY MAN
Well of course you would. And we'd like to come with you and talk to her, too.

FORREST
(smiles)
She loves company.

THE ARMY MAN
We'll be in touch with you.

He shakes their hands and leaves. As they watch him walk away:

FORREST (OVER)
My mama's proudest day was the day I graduated college. Now who was to think an idiot, who could barely read or write, would be getting a college degree.

EXT. THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA, QUADRANGLE, 1966 - DAY

"Pomp and Circumstance" is playing. And we see the graduating class, in their caps and gowns, filing up to get their diplomas. And as Forrest, stupidly smiling, receives his baccalaureate:

EXT. TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA - DAY

And we see Mrs. Gump in her best hat, Forrest, still in his cap and gown, his mother proudly holding his hand, walking along a broad tree lined boulevard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And as cherry blossoms blow around them:

FORREST (OVER)
Some months later Bubba and me joined the greatest fighting force on the face of the earth.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FORT BENNING GEORGIA, DRILL FIELD, 1967 - DAY

And we see Forrest and Bubba marching with their unit.

FORREST (OVER)
What made our unit special was that we were all pretty much alike. We were all slower than mollasses...

And we see the unit is indeed made up of people slower than mollasses.

FORREST (OVER)
Somebody later told me it was an experiment to put together a group of dumbos and halfwits who wouldn't question orders. Now I just don't believe that.

And as the dumbos and halfwits move across the drill field:

INT. ARMY BARRACKS, FORT BENNING, 1967 - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
Our Lieutenant was fresh out of Officers School. And he sure had his eye on the ball.

And we see a fair-haired, ambitious young man, LT. DAN HENNING. He and a flat-top Sergeant are showing Forrest, Bubba, and their unit, how to strip, and put back together, an M16.

FORREST (OVER)
Lt. Dan came from one of the oldest families in Virginia. He was from a long, great, military tradition...Somebody in his family had fought...

EXT. VALLEY FORGE, THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, 1780 - DAY

And we see a distant relative, bearing a striking resemblance to the young Lieutenant, in a Revolutionary War uniform, freezing to death at Valley Forge.

FORREST (OVER)
...and died, in every single American war.

INT. ARMY BARRACKS, FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, 1967 - DAY

Lt. Dan watches them reassemble their pieces.

FORREST (OVER)
He wanted to make his family proud of him. I guess you could say he had a lot to live up to.

Forrest finishes. And we see he's neglected to put the trigger back in. And we see each of them, in their own "special" way, has left out one or more important mechanism. It's a force to reckon with.

FORREST (OVER)
I learned all sorts of important things. How to use a bayonet...

EXT. TRAINING FIELD, FORT BENNING - DAY

Forrest and his unit being trained in the "art" of bayonet. They "attack" a dummy, but none of them has the "heart" or the instinct for the kill.

LT. DAN
You have to want to kill your enemy, or he'll kill you.
(demonstating, shouting)
Kill...! Kill...! Kill...!

And he bayonets the dummy tearing the stuffing out of it. And as Forrest, Bubba, and the feeble-minded boys laugh at the sheer idiocy of it:

FORREST (OVER)
And a hand grenade...

EXT. TRAINING FIELD - ANOTHER DAY

Lt. Dan's showing them how to pull the pin, and throw the deadly grenade. They pull the pins, and immediately forget the important throwing aspect. And as they all run for cover:

FORREST (OVER)
And a machine gun...

EXT. TRAINING FIELD - ANOTHER DAY

Lt. Dan's demonstrating how to use a fixed machine gun.

LT. DAN
Forrest, let's see how you can do.

Forrest comes over to the gun.

LT. DAN (cont'd)
Take a good hold, and squeeze the trigger like you mean it...

Forrest takes a good hold, squeezing the trigger, the gun spewing it's deadly venom.

LT. DAN (cont'd)
That was fine, Forrest, you can let go now...

But he's taken too good a hold, the trigger stuck in his hand.

LT. DAN (cont'd)
You can let go now..!

And as the gun, swiveling on its tripod, wildly fires, the unit forced to hit the dirt until the gun runs out of ammunition:

FORREST (OVER)
And they even taught us how to jump out of an airplane...

INT. A JUMP TRAINER, AIRPLANE - DAY

Forrest, Bubba, and their unit, wearing paratroop gear, are getting ready to take a practice jump.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LT. DAN
Go..! Go..! Go..!

And Forrest, Bubba, and their unit, dutifully jump out of the plane.

EXT. THE SKY - DAY

As they come leaping out of the plane:

FORREST (OVER)
They made a little mistake letting us pack our own parachutes...

And there's a crazy quilt of tangled, and partially opened chutes. And Forrest, his chute half opened, wildly spins out of control. He manages to grab onto Lt. Dan's ankles, holding on for dear life. And the two of them, like a strange circus team, fall to the earth. They somehow manage to survive unscathed. As does Bubba. Others are not so lucky. The field littered with the broken and the crumpled bodies of some of the hapless unit. And as Lt. Dan walks through his field of dreams:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BARRACKS, FORT BENNING, GEORGIA - NIGHT

The lights are off. The boys passing around a copy of "Playboy" magazine, giving themselves something to fantasize about as they go to sleep.

FORREST (OVER)
(adolescent)
Sometimes, when I thought about Jenny, it made me want to touch myself.

And we see Forrest in his bunk, touching himself, thinking about Jenny.

A BOY
(whispers)
Look at the tits on her.

He passes the Playboy to Forrest.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
Jenny had gotten into trouble for some photographs...

And we see a photo layout is captioned: "The Girls Of The South." And we see there's a picture of Jenny, a sadness in her eyes, her breasts bared for the world to see.

FORREST (OVER)
I guess her college thought that was a bad idea, making her breasts public and all, and they threw her out of school. I don't know what their problem was, she was the most beautiful thing I ever saw.

And in Forrest's MIND'S EYE, in the Playboy photograph, she has angel's wings.

FORREST (OVER)
But I guess you could say she was famous.

And as the Boys, their bunks rocking, administer to themselves:

FORREST (OVER)
The first chance I got, I went to see her...She had gone into dancing...

INT. A BAR, SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH - NIGHT

And we see Jenny, dancing, topless, on a stage. Her sadness has become deeper. The door opens, and Forrest, in his army uniform, comes in. He watches her dance. He looks at the men leering at her, trying to touch her. And suddenly, jumping on the stage, he picks her up, and carries her off.

EXT. A SOUTHERN CITY - NIGHT

Forrest and Jenny stand outside the club on a wet street.

JENNY
(furious)
You can't keep doing this...You can't keep trying to rescue me, Forrest...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
They were trying to touch you...

JENNY
A lot of people try to touch me...

And still angry, she moves along the street. Forrest hurries to catch up with her.

FORREST
(awkwardly)
But I love you...

JENNY
(shakes "no")
You don't know what love is, Forrest.

He's quiet, hurt. They walk along a bridge over a river. She stops, looking out at the water. After some moments:

JENNY (cont'd)
Do you remember that time we prayed? When we prayed for Him to turn me into a bird, so I could fly far, far away...

FORREST
Sure I remember, Jenny.

JENNY
(staring at the water)
Sometimes, I still wish I could.

And she suddenly climbs onto the bridge's railing.

FORREST
(frightened)
What are you doing, Jenny?

She stands precariously on the railing, looking like she's about to fly off. And Forrest grabs her, pulling her down. And terrified at what she was about to do, she holds him, tight. She looks at him, and ashamed of herself:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JENNY
Please don't come see me anymore...

FORREST
(doesn't understand)
What do you mean?

But she turns, hurrying off.

FORREST (cont'd)
(confused)
Jenny...?

And he starts running after her.

JENNY
(slows)
Stay away from me...Just stay away from me, Forrest, please...

She hails a taxi, hopping in. The taxi driving off. As he watches the taxi drive away:

FORREST
(trying to convince himself)
I do know what love is...

And as he stands with his hands in his pockets, alone on the bridge:

FORREST (OVER)
When I finished my basic training I was all set to fight for my country.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. "THE GUMP" BOARDING HOUSE, GREENBOW, MISSISSIPPI - LATE AFTERNOON

FORREST (OVER)
Mama threw me a going away party.

Flags, rustling on a breeze, fly from the porch. And we see Forrest, in his army uniform, surrounded by well wishers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He's unusually quiet. Still deeply wounded, he's undergone a maturation.

MRS. GUMP
(coming out)
Supper...

The guests go in to eat. Forrest stays behind. He sits on the porch steps.

MRS. GUMP (cont'd)
Aren't you coming to eat, Forrest?

He shakes "no." His mother comes to sit beside him. After some moments:

FORREST
What does it mean when you have a pain, mama, but you didn't get hurt?

MRS. GUMP
A pain, where?

FORREST
(touching his heart)
In here. Something broke.

And like a small hurt child he puts his head on her chest.

MRS. GUMP
(holding him, tenderly)
You come back safe to me, you hear...

She holds her baby boy. And as they sit on the porch steps, daylight waning:

EXT. A BUS STATION, GREENBOW, MISSISSIPPI - DAY

A Bus idles. Forrest, in his army uniform, holding his duffel bag and his orders, waiting in line to get on. As the people start on the bus:

A VOICE (OVER)
Forrest...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He turns at the familiar voice. And he sees Jenny, having gotten out of a taxi, is standing there. And despite his hurt, in his MIND'S EYE, she still has gossamer wings.

FORREST
Hello, Jenny.

JENNY
(after a beat)
I'm sorry about what happened. I was a little confused...I didn't mean to hurt your feelings.

FORREST
(forgiving)
That's okay...

JENNY
I couldn't let you leave without saying goodbye...

And she hugs him, holding onto him for dear life.

JENNY (cont'd)
You have to promise me something. If you're ever in trouble, don't try to be brave...just run Forrest, run away...

FORREST
(nods)
I promise.

The Bus driver honks. Forrest and Jenny look at each other. She sadly smiles. He starts on the Bus. He hesitates.

FORREST (cont'd)
(to the Driver)
I'm Forrest, Forrest Gump.

THE BUS DRIVER
Dale Williams, Forrest.

And Forrest, feeling safe, gets on the Bus. He finds a seat. He looks out the window at Jenny. The Bus starts to pull off. Jenny gives him the peace sign. And Forrest gives her the peace sign back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And as they drive away, Forrest looking back out the Bus window, Jenny becomming smaller and smaller:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. AN AIRPLANE - NIGHT

And we see Forrest, in his army fatigues, is looking out the window of a 747. He's sitting next to Bubba, with Lt. Dan and the rest of his unit. The plane filled with soldiers going to Vietnam.

FORREST (OVER)
We flew on the biggest plane you ever saw...

Stewardesses, incongruous, serve them dinner.

FORREST (OVER)
They gave us food and everything.

And as the men eat, flying halfway around the world to fight for democracy:

FORREST (OVER)
We must of been special all right.

INT. THE AIRPLANE - NIGHT

The plane's dark, the young men in this odd cocoon, trying to sleep. And we see Forrest, his light on, hunched over, and in a child's handwriting, writing a letter:

FORREST
(mouthing as he writes)
"Dear Jenny..."

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. VIETNAM, 1968 - DAY

A rural road.

FORREST (OVER)
...My first surprise was just how familiar everything looked.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And we see Forrest, Bubba, Lt. Dan, and their unit, in battle gear, being trucked by cattle cars along a quiet country road. Poor rural houses. People working in the fields.

FORREST (OVER)
It looked just like Mississippi.

INT. A CATTLE TRUCK, VIETNAM - DAY

Forrest looks through the truck slats outside.

FORREST (OVER)
...Except, everybody must've just got out of bed, because they were all wearing pajamas...

And as they're trucked toward the distant Highlands, strangers in a strange land:

EXT. BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS AND FIREBASE, PLEIKU, VIETNAM HIGHLANDS - DAY

The trucks rumble into a Firebase.

FORREST (OVER)
We must of been expected, because everything was ready for us when we got there.

Flags are flying. And as far as the eye can see are neat tent rows in the red Vietnam dirt. The boys climb out of the trucks, forming up. Lt. Dan marches them through the base.

FORREST (OVER)
And everybody was happy to see us.

Soldiers stop what they're doing, laughing, watching them march by.

A SOLDIER
(derisive)
The "Stupid Dozen."

FORREST (OVER)
They gave us a tent, and showed us where to go pee and everything. And they sent us for a shower.

EXT. THE FIREBASE, BRIGADE SHOWERS - DUSK

It's "The children's hour." "Between the dark and the daylight when the lights begin to lower..." And Forrest, Bubba, Lt. Dan, and their unit, stand outside a shallow pit.

LT. DAN
Take off your uniforms, fold them up, and get down in the pit.

The boys undress, going into the pit. And soldiers, pumping water from four big water trucks, "the brigade showers," hose them down. And Forrest, Bubba and the boys, laughing, screwing around, wrestle, as they take a "shower." And there's a distant WHISTLING sound...

FORREST (OVER)
And there's this sound like somebody's making tea...And one of them soliders squirting us shouts, "incoming," and he takes off running. Now we don't know coming, from going, so we just stand there butt naked, dripping wet, looking at each other...

The Boys awkwardly standing naked. And there's suddenly a big explosion nearby. And another one.

LT. DAN
(shouting)
Hit the dirt...!

And Forrest, Bubba, and the Boys, flatten, lying naked on the ground in the wet pit. And it's chaos, round after round exploding all around them.

FORREST (OVER)
Now, it's funny how some people is more worried about covering up their private parts, then having them blown off.

And a sad looking Boy, William, with not much upstairs, suddenly gets up, running out of the pit for his clothing.

LT. DAN
(yelling)
Get down William!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

But the Boy doesn't listen, grabbing up his clothing, putting on his pants. And another round comes in, and the Boy, buttoning his fly, is blown apart.

FORREST (OVER)
It must of made him feel better not having to die with nothin' on.

There's a lull in the explosions.

LT. DAN
(quickly standing)
Follow me...!

And Forrest, Bubba, and the Boys, scramble out of the pit after him, running naked across a field toward some sandbagged foxholes. The explosions start again. And the Boys running naked across the field, are cast in the eerie white light of the explosions like an old silent movie.

FORREST (OVER)
Now, I was just as scared as everybody else, but I had to laugh, all of them men running around naked, their balls flapping between their legs.

They scramble into the foxholes. And as Forrest, Bubba, and the dimwitted Boys, sit huddled together naked, shells exploding around them:

FORREST (OVER)
"Love, Forrest Gump..."

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A HOUSE, SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH - ANOTHER DAY

A V.W. Bus is in the street, honking, outside of an old clapboard house. And we see Jenny, in hippie regalia, filled with hope, carrying a macrame bag with her belongings, running out of the house. She gets into the bus with a group of Hippies. They drive off. And we see a Mailman coming along the sidewalk to the house. And as he puts Forrest's letter in the mailbox:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A HIGHWAY, SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA - NIGHT

Headlights come at us. And we see the V.W. Bus moving along a road somewhere in America.

INT. THE V.W. BUS - NIGHT

It's quiet. The young people asleep. And we see Jenny, her head against the window, looking lost, quietly staring outside.

EXT. THE ROAD, SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA - NIGHT

And as the V.W. drives into the night:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE FIREBASE, PLEIKU, VIETNAM - ANOTHER DAY

The sea of tents, flags fluttering in a breeze.

FORREST (OVER)
After awhile things calmed down. And while we was waitin' for our orders, they assigned us guard duty.

And we see Forrest, Bubba, and some boys from his unit, guarding the officers latrine.

FORREST (OVER)
A reporter was there asking us questions, wanting to know if it were true we was a unit of retards.

And we see a Reporter interviewing Forrest as he stands guard by the latrine.

FORREST (OVER)
Now we had orders that if anybody was to ask, we was to tell them talk to our superiors. And we was there to follow orders. But I did tell him I didn't think we were any stupider then the people who sent us over there.

And there's the unmimstakeable WHISTLE of an incoming. They duck for cover. And the latrine is blown sky high.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Forrest, Bubba, and the boys, look up. And raining down on them, from the depths of the latrine, is pure shit. Forrest looks at the Reporter, shrugs, and says something we can't quite hear.

FORREST (OVER)
And I guess he thought what I said was important and reported it back to the States. And people must've picked it up, because a few years later I was on the street somewhere, and there it was.

EXT. A STREET, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S.A., SOME YEARS LATER - DAY

A car's stopped for a light. And on a bumper sticker is Forrest's timeless observation: "Shit Happens."

FORREST (OVER)
A week later we got to go out and see the country.

EXT. THE VIETNAM HIGHLANDS, 1968 - DAY

And we see Forrest, Bubba, and their unit, in full battle gear, following Lt. Dan through a dense jungle.

FORREST (OVER)
They had so much faith in us they sent us where nobody'd been before.

There's a sound. They stop. And they see a monkey, swinging from tree to tree. And in Forrest's MIND'S EYE, in ANIMATION, it's his old friend, Curious George.

FORREST (OVER)
We set up camp in the jungle and waited to see what was going to happen.

EXT. A JUNGLE CAMP, VIETNAM - NIGHT

The moon lights a small encampment in a jungle clearing. And we see, walking guard on the perimeter, Forrest and Bubba.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUBBA
Have you ever been on a shrimp boat, Forrest?

And in Forrest's MIND'S EYE, in ANIMATION, we see him on a tiny, tiny, boat.

FORREST
(shakes "no")
No, Bubba.

BUBBA
I been workin' on shrimp boats all my life...Maybe when we're done here we can go into the shrimpin' business. We can take turns bein' captain, and live on the boat...

FORREST (OVER)
Bubba had it all figured out, so many pounds of shrimp to pay off the boat, so much for gas, and all the shrimp you could eat...

And we see Forrest's VISION of the future. Forrest at the helm of a shrimp boat, Bubba, in the back, eating shrimp cocktails.

FORREST (OVER)
It was a fine idea...

And as they walk through the jungle of Vietnam, talking about their futures:

FORREST (OVER)
"Dear Jenny..."

EXT. THE JUNGLE BASE, VIETNAM - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
It started rainin' one day, and it ain't quit for two months...

And we see Forrest and the unit hunkered down in the rain.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
We been through every kind of rain they is. Little bitty stingin' rain, an big old fat rain...It comes sidewise an straight down and sometimes even seem to come up from the ground...

And we see in Forrest's MIND'S EYE, in ANIMATION, the various kinds of rain.

FORREST (OVER)
But that didn't stop us from doing what we was sent over there to do, walkin up and down the hills and stuff looking for the enemy.

EXT. THE JUNGLE, VIETNAM - DAY

Forrest, Bubba, Lt. Dan, and the Boys, trudging through the rain looking for the "enemy."

FORREST (OVER)
Now I don't know much about much of anything, but I think some of America's best men serve in this war...Sometimes we sit around looking at a map of the United States talkin' about where we come from...

INT. A TENT, THE JUNGLE CAMP - DAY

Forrest, Bubba, and some of the Boys, sit together in a tent out of the rain, looking at a Rand McNally's Road Map and Travel Guide of the U.S.A.

A YOUNG SOLDIER
(motioning, fondly)
...I'm from Eastern Wyoming. My father has a cattle ranch. We do a lot of riding...

EXT. A RANCH IN EASTERN WYOMING - DAY

And we see the Young Soldier and his Father riding along a grove of cottonwoods.

INT. A TENT, THE JUNGLE BASE, VIETNAM - DAY

The boys looking at the road map.

ANOTHER YOUNG SOLDIER
I'm from right here, Des Plaines...My father's a barber...

EXT. DES PLAINES - DAY

American flags line the street. There's a Barber Shop.

INT. DES PLAINES BARBER SHOP - DAY

And we see the Young Soldier getting a haircut from his Father.

INT. A TENT, THE JUNGLE BASE, VIETNAM - DAY

A YOUNG BLACK SOLDIER
...You ever heard of Newark?
(smiles)
We call it "No Work."

EXT. NEWARK - NIGHT

And we see the Young Black Soldier standing in a housing project's doorway, kissing a Girl goodnight. As he watches her go into the building:

EXT. THE JUNGLE BASE - NIGHT

The rain still falling.

INT. A PUP TENT, JUNGLE BASE - NIGHT

FORREST (OVER)
...Bubba showed me how to play the harmonica.

Rain sounds on the tent. Forrest and Bubba are lying in their bedrolls. Bubba, showing Forrest how to play the harmonica. And as the sound of the harmonica plays into the night...

INT. THE PUP TENT - NIGHT

It's still, Bubba asleep. And we see Forrest, unable to sleep, writing a letter.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
...I think about you all the time. Makes me feel like I got a hole somewhere inside me...

And in a child's hand we see Forrest writing on the piece of wet paper, mouthing as he writes:

FORREST
"Love, Forrest Gump..."

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A COMMUNE IN NEW MEXICO - NIGHT

A full moon lights the night. At the end of a dirt road is a sign: "The Hog Farm, Santa Fe, New Mexico." And in the middle of nowhere are ramshackle buildings. A field with some scant crops. And sitting on the ground around a roaring fire is the "Community." A bedraggled group of young people, passing drugs around. And we see amongst them, Jenny. Her sadness has become a way of life. She takes a tab of acid. She stares at the fire. And the acid takes hold of her. And she's on her feet, dancing barefoot by the fire. Dancing, cathartic, as if she could somehow fly away. And in her "rapture" she stumbles, falling into the fire. People in their drugged state are slow to react. A wiser head prevails, pulling her out of the fire. And as she lays on the ground, crying:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A ROAD, SOMEWHERE IN AMERICA - ANOTHER DAY

An empty road razor cuts the desert to the horizon. And we see Jenny sitting under a billboard on the side of the road. Her companion, a long-haired young man, stands in the road, hitchiking. Some moments, and a car stops. And Jenny, filled with hope again, runs to the car, getting in. And as she drives off to find her dreams:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE JUNGLE, VIETNAM - LATE AFTERNOON

FORREST (OVER)
The rain stopped on a dime...And we were out trompin' around the jungle looking for the little guys some more...

And we see Forrest, Bubba, Lt. Dan and the troop, on patrol, moving through the jungle. The jungle's veritably hissing as it dries. They slow. And BUTTERFLIES, hundreds of them, dance around them in the sunlight. The Boys laugh like children, chasing the butterflies through the underbrush...

FORREST (OVER)
And this one time, we found them.

And suddenly, they're raked with tremendous GUNFIRE.

FORREST (OVER)
It was like stepping on an ant hill. They was everywhere.

Forrest, Bubba, and the Boys, under the extreme FIRE, cover up.

FORREST (OVER)
I could hear Lt. Dan arguing on the radio that this was a real bad idea and you couldn't even send a bunch of idiots into something like this. But they wanted us to give it a try anyway. And for some reason Lt. Dan was crying.

And we see Lt. Dan, tears on his dirty face, turning off the radio.

FORREST (OVER)
We're at the bottom of this hill, and all these little guys with pajamas are running around up top of us. Lt. Dan got us all together.

LT. DAN
Have any of you ever played King of the Mountain before?

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
And you'd have to be an idiot not to know what that was. And he said, that's what we're going to do. And the army sure knew a little bit about us, because we would do anything they told us to do. And off we went, trying to take that hill.

And in the teeth of the heavy enemy fire they bravely run up the hill. Repulsed, they suffer severe casualties.

FORREST (OVER)
And all of a sudden the little guys come hauling ass after us... And all I could think of was Jenny saying, if I was ever in trouble, to run like hell. And I sure did...

And we see Forrest, Bubba at his side, running through the jungle for safety.

JENNY'S VOICE (OVER)
Run Forrest, run...!

And, out of fear and instinct, he runs like hell.

FORREST (OVER)
And I did a bad thing, because I was thinking so hard about running, I didn't think about Bubba at all...

And we see dear Bubba, trying to keep up, getting further and further behind.

FORREST (OVER)
And when I remembered old Bubba, and turned to look for him, he was gone...

He turns to look for Bubba, but there's no sign of him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
Bubba was my best good friend and I wasn't about to just take off and leave him...

Forrest turns back into the teeth of the oncoming soldiers to look for Bubba.

FORREST (OVER)
And on my way back there was this boy laying on the ground...

And we see a Boy, the Young Soldier who went riding with his father in the cottonwoods, lying on the ground mortally wounded.

FORREST (OVER)
I couldn't just let him lay there all alone and scared the way he was, so I grabbed him up and ran him to a safe place. And everytime I went looking for Bubba, somebody else was saying "help me."

And we see Forrest making trip after trip, with the Young Soldier who's father had given him a haircut, with the Young Black Soldier from Newark, with the dead and the dying and the wounded...

EXT. THE JUNGLE - NIGHTFALL

FORREST (OVER)
On one of them trips I fell over somebody. And layin' there, his legs all shot out from under him, is Lt. Dan.

And Lt. Dan, his legs badly hurt, is prone on the ground. Forrest moves to help him. Lt. Dan angrily pushes him away.

FORREST (OVER)
And he was all pissed off, yelling at me to leave him where he was...

Lt. Dan tries to fight Forrest off of him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
But I carried him outta there, too.

He carries the critically wounded Lt. Dan to safety.

FORREST (OVER)
And I went lookin' for old Bubba...

He goes back for Bubba. As he runs under the hellish fire:

FORREST (OVER)
And whilst I'm trying to find him somethin' felt like it jumped up and bit me.

And we see he's been shot, the back of his pants covered with blood.

FORREST (OVER)
But I had to find Bubba, and I didn't pay it no mind.

And he finds Bubba, lying in the underbrush, with a huge sucking chest wound.

FORREST (OVER)
And even though everybody told me I couldn't have done anything, I just think if I hadn't stopped for everybody else Bubba would have been just fine...

He sits with the mortally wounded big man...

FORREST
Hey, Bubba...

BUBBA
Hey, Forrest...

Forrest takes his friend's hand. Bubba sadly looks up at him.

BUBBA (cont'd)
Fuck it, Forrest, why'd this happen?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
(helpless)
I wish I knew, Bubba...I wish I knew...

FORREST (OVER)
And he said something I won't ever forget.

BUBBA
(poignant)
I want to go home.

Bubba squeezes Forrest's hand.

FORREST (OVER)
Bubba was my first and best good friend. And even I know that's something you can't just find around the corner.

And he takes Bubba's harmonica out of Bubba's pocket.

FORREST (OVER)
I only knew how to play one song, but it was better then nothin'.

And he starts to play, "Swanee River."

FORREST (OVER)
I remember when I was little mama telling me dying was like your heart just flying away.

And as looks at Bubba, in his MIND'S EYE, in ANIMATION, he sees Bubba's heart, with little wings, fly out of his chest, flying up to heaven. And as he watches his best good friend die:

FORREST
(singing)
"Way down upon the Swanee River, far far away. Way down upon the Swanee River, that's where the old folks play..."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
And then the choppers came in, and the little guys all ran away.

And we see the jungle littered with the unit's bodies. Forrest, sitting with Bubba, playing "Swanee River."

FORREST (OVER)
Bubba was the first black man they let play football at the University of Alabama...I guess that hill must of been pretty important. Bubba died there. And that's all I have to say about that.

EXT. THE BUS STOP IN NEW ORLEANS, THE PRESENT - DAY

The Woman holding her child has gotten up, waiting in a small line to get on a Bus. And a Man, in a cheap suit, sweating from a long day, has taken her seat.

FORREST
(smiles)
Hello, I'm Forrest. Forrest Gump.

The Man nods, not much interested. He damps his forehead, looking at the want ads in a marked up newspaper.

FORREST (cont'd)
(looking over his shoulder)
Hard to find work?

THE MAN
(nods)
All they want is people that got a college degree.

FORREST
(nods, and seeing a sign)
"A mind is a terrible thing to waste."

The man doesn't know quite what to say.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (cont'd)
(after a beat)
I was just saying life can sure be tricky...

INT. A BASE HOSPITAL, DA NANG, VIETNAM, 1969 - DAY

A Da Nang military hospital.

FORREST (OVER)
It turned out, what jumped up and bit me was a bullet in the ass.

And we see Forrest, in a crowded hospital ward, lying in bed on his stomach, eating an ice cream cone.

FORREST (OVER)
I didn't mind so much 'cause they gave me ice cream. All the ice cream I could want to eat. And a friend of mine was right in the bed next door.

And we see in the bed next to his, Lt. Dan. A Nurse comes in to bathe Dan. She pulls the curtains around his bed. Forrest can just see a glimpse of Lt. Dan as she bathes him. And we see Lt. Dan's legs have been amputated.

FORREST (OVER)
The reason Lt. Dan was all pissed off about me saving his life, was because he knew his family wouldn't be too proud of him. Like I said, somebody in his family had died in every American war. He felt like he let them down.

As he watches the nurse bathe Lt. Dan:

A SOLDIER
Mail call.

Calling off names he hands out the mail.

THE SOLDIER (cont'd)
Forrest Gump...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Forrest waves, excited.

FORREST
I'm Forrest Gump...

The Soldier gives Forrest some letters. Forrest, joyous, looks through them.

FORREST (OVER)
Mama always sent me some nice encouraging words...

And we see there are some letters from his mother. But they're not the what he's looking for...

FORREST (OVER)
I was still waiting to hear from Jenny...

He slows. And he sees, among the envelopes, all the letters he had sent to Jenny. And stamped on the envelopes is: "Return to Sender...Address Unknown." As Forrest looks at the letters, heartbroken, the ice cream melting:

INT. REC ROOM, THE HOSPITAL AT DA NANG, 1969 - NIGHT

Forrest sits alone in a rec room. A television's on. And on the screen is the first moon landing.

NEIL ARMSTRONG (OVER)
(on television)
The eagle has landed.

And some Men in wheelchairs, two wounded Soldiers, oblivous to the historic event, are playing ping pong. Forrest wanders over to watch them play. One of the men, a sore loser, angrily smacks the ball, and wheels off. Forrest retrieves the ball.

A WOUNDED SOLDIER
You know how to play?

Forrest shakes "no."

THE WOUNDED SOLDIER (cont'd)
Any idiot can play it...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
(his smile)
I'm a born idiot.

He awkwardly takes up the paddle.

THE WOUNDED SOLDIER
The secret to playing this game is, no matter what happens, never take your eye off the ball.

And as Forrest moronically follows his instructions to a tee, never taking his eye off the ball:

NEIL ARMSTRONG (OVER)
(on television)
"...That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind..."

FORREST (OVER)
Ping pong became my life. That little white ball was all that mattered to me.

INT. THE HOSPITAL, DA NANG - VARIOUS TIMES

Forrest, never taking his eye off the ball, playing ping pong.

INT. THE HOSPITAL WARD, DA NANG - NIGHT

Forrest lying in bed, falling asleep, a ping pong paddle in his hand, his security blanket.

FORREST (OVER)
Lt. Dan and me became good best friends. He'd always be there, rooting for me.

INT. THE HOSPITAL REC ROOM, DA NANG - DAY

Lt. Dan, in a wheelchair, silently sits watching Forrest play ping pong.

FORREST (OVER)
Except, it was like he had this black cloud hangin' over his head...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And we see, in Forrest's MIND'S EYE, Lt. Dan has a small BLACK CLOUD hanging over his head.

FORREST (OVER)
I'd take Lt. Dan out for walks...

EXT. DA NANG, VIETNAM - DAY

Forrest wheeling Lt. Dan through the busy town.

EXT. A SIDEWALK CAFE, DA NANG, VIETNAM - DAY

Forrest and Lt. Dan having some beers, talking.

LT. DAN
(drunk)
...Anything that happens to us, to anybody anywhere, is controlled by natural laws that govern the universe...By saving my life you fucked with the laws of the universe...

FORREST
(can only say)
I'm awful sorry about that...

FORREST (OVER)
His ideas was extremely complicated, but some of the things he said begun to change my outlook on things.

FORREST
(to Lt. Dan)
All my life, I never understood shit about what's going on. A thing just happens, then something else happens, then something else, and so on, and half the time nothin' makes any sense. It just happens, accidental like.
(a beat)
Mama says we're all just floatin' around in the breeze.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And in his MIND'S EYE, in ANIMATION, we see Forrest, like a Chagall painting, aimlessly floating with other people, going this way and that, floating around in a breeze.

LT. DAN
I'm sure your mama is a fine woman, but she doesn't know her ass from a hole in the ground... Nothing just happens. It all has a purpose. It's all part of a scheme. A plan. We all have a destiny...

Forrest nods, not really understanding. And two young Vietnamese Girls stop at the table, propositioning them.

FORREST (OVER)
Next thing I know I'm naked in bed in a hootch.

INT. A HOOTCH, DA NANG, VIETNAM - DAY

Forrest's lying naked on a bed, one of the young Vietnamese Girl's trying to arouse him. He looks at her. And in his MIND'S EYE, in the light and the shadows, he's making love to Jenny with her gossamer wings. He shudders, ejaculating. The Vietnamese girl gets up and leaves. And as Forrest lies in bed in the hootch, looking out a window, thinking about Jenny:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SUNSET BOULEVARD, HOLLYWOOD - NIGHT

The street's teaming with aimless young people. And we see Jenny, purposeless, hanging on a corner with some people. She's painfully thin. Her covering smile not so readily available. A car pulls up to the curb. A long-haired Young Man leans out the window. He smiles at her. She comes over to the car. They talk. And with nothing to lose, she gets in. And as they drive off, Jenny floating around in the breeze...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DA NANG - NIGHT

Forrest wheeling Lt. Dan through the busy Vietnam town back to the base.

LT. DAN
(reiterating)
...Nothing's an accident...It's all part of a plan...You just can't fuck with the laws of nature...

FORREST (OVER)
Years later Lt. Dan found out that girl he was with had a little baby.

EXT. DA NANG, SOMETIME IN THEIR FUTURE - DAY

And we see a group of impoverished Amerasian Teenagers, with their telltale genetic mixtures, hanging out on a Da Nang street. One of them, a Teenage Boy, bears a striking resemblance to Lt. Dan.

FORREST (OVER)
I haven't done it yet, but sometime I'm gonna figure out where I fit into the plan.

INT. THE HOSPITAL AT DA NANG - DAY

Forrest playing ping pong.

FORREST (OVER)
One day this man came to see me and told me he got a nice surprise for me.

And we see an Officer talking to Forrest.

THE OFFICER
You've been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

FORREST
(ignorant)
Is that good?

THE OFFICER
It's the highest honor there is.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
That's awful nice.
(a beat)
What did I do to deserve it?

THE OFFICER
You showed extreme bravery. You risked your life to save others.

FORREST
I did?

INT. HOSPITAL WARD, DA NANG - NIGHT

Forrest, carrying his ping pong paddle, comes into the ward. The curtains are closed around Lt. Dan's bed.

FORREST
They want to give me a medal, Lt. Dan. A man said I was a big hero...

And a Nurse, pulling open the curtains, comes out from Lt. Dan's bed. And we see another badly wounded Man, a stranger, is lying there. Lt. Dan, gone.

FORREST
(upset)
Where's the Lieutenant?

THE NURSE
They've sent him home.

She leaves. Forrest sits on his bed. He sees a note's been left on his pillow. It simply says: "Get a life." And it's signed, "Lt. Dan." And as Forrest sits on his bed, holding his ping pong paddle, thinking about his destiny:

FORREST (OVER)
Two weeks later I landed in San Francisco...

EXT. A TARMAC, THE SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT, 1969 - DAY

And we see Forrest and Soldiers in their khakis, coming down the steps of a commercial plane, coming home from Vietnam. The young men, with their grown-up eyes, wondering what world is waiting for them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

One of the Soldier's coming off the plane stops, fumbling...

THE SOLDIER
Damnit, I dropped a contact lens...

And Forrest, just doing what's natural, gets on his hands and knees, his face close to the ground, helping him look for it. And a PHOTOGRPAHER takes his PICTURE. And we see the PHOTOGRAPH on the COVER OF "TIME" MAGAZINE. Forrest, on his hands and knees, his face close to the ground, as if he were kissing the earth. And the caption reads: "THE BOYS COME HOME."

INT. THE SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT - DAY

Forrest and the Soldiers come into the airport. A BAND'S playing. People cheering.

FORREST (OVER)
We got a big welcome.

And we see that the Band's playing, the people cheering, for a High School Basketball Team getting off another plane.

FORREST (OVER)
And I took the first bus home.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE COUNTRY ROAD, GREENBOW, MISSISSIPPI - NIGHT

A full moon's out. And Forrest, in his uniform, carrying his duffel bag, walks along the familiar country road.

EXT. "THE GUMP" BOARDING HOUSE, MISSISSIPPI - NIGHT

He crosses the yard to the house. It's dark. He goes up the steps inside.

INT. THE BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT

It's quiet. He goes up the stairs. He comes to a door. He quietly opens it, looking in. His mother is in bed, asleep. He crosses to her bed. He bends to kiss her. She stirs, seeing him:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MRS. GUMP
(emotionally)
Forrest...

FORREST
I'm home mama.

And he puts his idiot head on her chest. And as she holds her baby boy, home from the war:

EXT. THE BUS BENCH IN NEW ORLEANS, THE PRESENT - DAY

The Man with the "want ads" is fast asleep. A Bus is stopped, people getting on. Forrest nudges the Man, waking him up. And the Man, seeing his bus, jumps up, getting on. And a very fat Man, out of breath, sits down next to Forrest.

FORREST
(smiles)
Hello, I'm Forrest. Forrest Gump.

The Man, breathing heavily, doesn't say anything.

FORREST (cont'd)
Have you ever noticed that just about the time you think you've got things figured out, something makes no sense at all?

The Man shakes "no," he hadn't noticed.

EXT. "THE GUMP" BOARDING HOUSE, 1970 - DAY

Forrest and his mother, serene, sit on rocking chairs on the porch. Cherry blossoms blowing on a breeze around the old house.

FORREST (OVER)
A few months later, they sent mama and me tickets to Washington.

EXT. A COURTYARD, THE PENTAGON, WASHINGTON D.C - DAY

And we see Mrs. Gump, in a new hat, proudly sitting with families in a Pentagon courtyard. Flags, and a color guard, circle the courtyard.

CONTINUED:

A MAN'S VOICE (OVER)
...And despite being severely wounded saved the lives of four of his men...

And we see Forrest, in a dress uniform, standing in a line with some Men in dress uniforms. Forrest shyly waves at his mother.

THE MAN'S VOICE (OVER)
(after a beat)
...Private First Class, Forrest Gump. While on patrol, his unit came under heavy enemy fire. Private Gump, without regard for his own safety, braved enemy fire time and time again, saving the lives of seven of his fellow soldiers.

And the Chairman of The Joint Chiefs of Staff, in full uniform, comes to stand in front of him.

FORREST (OVER)
Now I must've had ten Dr. Pepper's this time, on the plane there, them being free and all...

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs ceremonially puts a Medal Of Honor around Forrest's neck. He salutes Forrest.

CHAIRMAN OF JOINT CHIEFS
America owes you a debt of gratitude.

And the only thing Forrest can think of to say is:

FORREST
(saluting him)
I got to go pee, sir.

And as he breaks ranks:

EXT. THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL - LATE AFTERNOON

FORREST (OVER)
Mama went to lay down, and I went for a walk to see our nation's capital...

And we see Forrest, in his uniform, proudly wearing his Medal of Honor around his neck. coming along the promenade by the Lincoln Memorial. He stops to look up at the grand figure. And in his MIND'S EYE, he pictures himself, a gentle giant, sitting in Abe's place. And there's a SPEAKER'S VOICE, echoing. Curious, Forrest crosses to see where the voice is coming from.

FORREST (OVER)
And there was the biggest picnic you ever saw.

And on the lawn by the Reflection Pool, as far as the eye can see, is an Anti-War rally. Policemen, in riot gear, stand ready. A Speaker, interrupted by cheers, is on a platform. And Forrest, a solitary figure, stands off to the side watching the rally with fascination.

FORREST (OVER)
And for some reason that young man doing all the talking was wearing an American Flag...

And we see Abbie Hoffman, in his trademark American Flag shirt, giving one of his outrageous speeches.

FORREST (OVER)
And he sure liked to say the "F" word alot. "F..." this, and "F..." that. And everytime he said the "F" word all of them people, for some reason, would cheer.

The people cheering.

FORREST (OVER)
(a beat)
Some years later that young man who liked to say the "F" word disappeared into what was called the "underground." I guess it was like a rabbit hole or something...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And in his IMAGINATION we see Abbie Hoffman going down into a rabbit hole.

FORREST (OVER)
Anyways, when he decided to come back out, and took a look around...

And we see in Forrest's IMAGINATION Abbie Hoffman popping his head up from the rabbit hole, taking a look around.

FORREST (OVER)
I guess he didn't like what he saw, because he took a whole bunch of pills, and he didn't have to say the "F" word no more...

And a young Woman, wearing one too many buttons, hurries over to Forrest.

THE YOUNG WOMAN
Are you one of the veterans?

FORREST
(not understanding)
I got shot in the ass if that's what you mean?

THE YOUNG WOMAN
You're supposed to be over here...

And the young Woman, taking his arm, walks him onto the stage. And we see on the stage are some VIETNAM VETERANS, their clenched fists raised, showing their support. And Forrest, like a deer caught in headlights, just stupidly stands there looking out at the people.

ABBIE HOFFMAN
(to Forrest, smiling)
What's your name, soldier?

FORREST
Me? I'm Forrest. Forrest Gump.

Abbie introduces him to the crowd.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ABBIE HOFFMAN
(announcing)
...Forrest Gump...

And there's a collective roar. And the people start chanting, "Gump...Gump...Gump..." And Forrest, idiotically smiling, waves. And in the din there's a familiar VOICE, somebody shouting..."Forrest..."

ABBIE HOFFMAN (cont'd)
(to Forrest)
Is there something you'd like to say about the war, man?

FORREST
(dumbly)
The war?

But Abbie Hoffman's given him the microphone. And it's dead still, the people waiting for some words of wisdom from this "warrior."

FORREST (OVER)
I didn't know what they wanted to hear outta me...

Forrest stupidly looks at the crowd.

FORREST (OVER)
There was only one thing I could think of to say about the war...

And taking Bubba's harmonica out of his pocket he idiotically plays, "Swanee River" for them. The small harmonica sound echoing in the quiet. "Way down upon the Swanee River, far far away..." And there's the VOICE again, somebody shouting, "Forrest..." He turns to where the voice is coming from. And he sees, amongst the crowd, his beloved JENNY. And in his MIND'S EYE, she has angel's wings.

FORREST (OVER)
It was about the happiest moment of my life.

He jumps off the stage, pushing his way through the crowd to her. Jenny, running, making her way to him. And as they make their way through the crowd to each other:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
Now, for some reason, the Police didn't think that picnic was such a good idea, and they told people it was time to leave...

And a Policeman announces that it's an illegal assembly, and they should peacefully disperse. The people are slow to react. And the Police, in their riot gear, start moving toward the crowd. Some radicals confront the police. One of them spits at a policeman. The policeman hits him with his club. And a full scale melee erupts. A tear gas cannister is fired, exploding in the crowd. People, panicked, start to run. And before long everybody's running.

It's chaos. Tear gas choking the air. And Forrest and Jenny, trying to reach one another, are caught in the confusion. Some police block Forrest's path. He tries to push his way past them. And an overzealous Policeman hits him with his billy club, opening up a cut on Forrest's forehead, blood running down his face. And a PHOTOGRAPHER takes his picture. And WE SEE, on the COVER of "NEWSWEEK," Forrest with blood running down his face, the haze of tear gas all around him. And the caption reads: "The Anti-War Movement Grows."

Forrest, in the confusion, manages to get past the police, running to Jenny. She embraces him.

FORREST (OVER)
And I don't know why, maybe it was the tear gas and all, but I started crying. And I felt pretty stupid standing there crying, but Jenny said it was alright.

And as they stand holding each other, in the eye of the storm:

EXT. THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT - DUSK

The rally's just a memory. The lawn empty, a breeze blowing some errant paper. And we see Forrest and Jenny, sitting on the steps beneath the monument.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
...And it was like old times. We were like two peas in a pod again...

And it's the first time we get a good look at Jenny. Her hair's cut short. And there's a toughness about her, as if she's grown a protective second skin. Her eyes belie the toughness. She's as lost as she ever was. She smiles at him, covering her sadness.

JENNY
...It's so good to see you again...

FORREST
(awkward)
...I thought about you all the time...
(childishly)
I still love you Jenny...

JENNY
(looking at him, not sure why)
You really do, don't you?

He shyly nods, he does. She affectionately pushes some hair off his forehead. And there's a Voice...

A MAN'S VOICE (OVER)
Hey...

They turn. And three young Black Men wearing the distinctive berets of the Black Panthers cross toward them. Jenny smiles, getting up, kissing one of them, a thin, intense young Man in glasses. Forrest can't help but notice the kiss.

JENNY
Are you okay?

He nods.

THE YOUNG BLACK MAN
Darryl and Lathrop got jailed for hitting a pig...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
(doesn't understand)
Why did they hit a pig?

JENNY
(to the young man)
...This is my good friend I told you about...Forrest Gump...

The young Man looks suspiciously at him.

THE YOUNG BLACK MAN
(nods)
How's it going?

FORREST
(ignorant, meaning the beret)
Are you a painter?

JENNY
(laughs)
He's a panther, Forrest...
(after a beat)
This is my friend Wesley...

And even for Forrest it's hard to mistake the intimacy of their relationship. And it hurts...

FORREST
(guileless)
I wanted to be your boyfriend.

She understandingly takes his hand.

JENNY
I know.

FORREST
(lost)
I got to get back to mama...
(not knowing what else to say)
I won a congressional medal of honor...

And he turns to leave. Jenny comes after him.

CONTINUED:

JENNY
Please don't go, Forrest...
(a beat, heartfelt)
We're still best friends, aren't we?

He looks at her. And he can't help himself.

FORREST
(nods)
My most special friend in the whole wide world.

INT. AN APARTMENT, WASHINGTON D.C. - NIGHT

FORREST (OVER)
I met more of Jenny's new friends...

A small apartment's crowded with a racially mixed group of radicals. There's an edge of hysteria. Everybody drunk and stoned, talking too loud. And we see Forrest, incongruous, still in his uniform, innocently walking around introducing himself, "Hello, I'm Forrest...Forrest Gump."

A YOUNG MAN
(to Forrest)
Your uniform's a trip. Where'd you get it?

FORREST
The army. I was in Vietnam.

And for some reason they find that funny, and they all start laughing. And stupid Forrest, wanting to be accepted, laughs, too.

FORREST (OVER)
One of them never took off his sunglasses.

And we see a silent young Black Man in sunglasses.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
A few years later, that young man in the sunglasses, started his own army -- the Singing Liberation Army, or something like that -- And along with some of his friends kidnapped a rich girl and made her rob banks. When the police caught up with him, they put about a hundred million bullets in him for doing something stupid like that.

Jenny's standing beside Wesley as he has an animated conversation with some people...

WESLEY
...We got to have our own police force in our neighborhoods...

Jenny affectionately puts her hand on his arm.

WESLEY
(annoyed)
Don't hang on me, girl...

She quietly moves her hand.

WESLEY (cont'd)
Don't you have anything better to do?

JENNY
I'm just listening.

WESLEY
(giving her something to do)
Go fill this up.

He gives her his glass. She hesitates, then goes to fill up his glass. Forrest is at a small table that has some appetizers, eating.

JENNY
(her sad smile)
Are you enjoying yourself?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
(nods, meaning the broccoli)
I like the little trees.

JENNY
(smiles)
I'll be right back...

She brings Wesley his drink. Handing it to him, she slightly stumbles, spilling it on him.

WESLEY
(erupts)
What the fuck's a matter with you?

Forrest turns.

JENNY
Haven't you ever spilled anything...? It was an accident.

She starts to clean it off of him. He pushes her away...

WESLEY
(wiping himself off)
You're one big fucking accident...
(abusive)
I'm sick of you just hanging around...You're like a lost dog...If I wanted a dog I'd buy one...
(contemptuous, shoving her)
Go on back to the hotel...

JENNY
(defiant)
Go fuck yourself...!

And Wesley suddenly hits her, knocking her down. And Forrest, protecting Jenny, tackles Wesley, the man wrestling on the floor.

JENNY (cont'd)
(yelling)
Stop it! Stop it, Forrest!

CONTINUED:

She pulls Forrest off of him. Wesley, grabbing up his jacket, storms out of the apartment.

FORREST
He shouldn't be hitting you, Jenny.

She looks at him like he doesn't understand, and hurries out after Wesley. It's quiet. And after a moment, Forrest, not knowing what else to say:

FORREST (cont'd)
(unintentionally ironic)
Peace...

And leaves.

EXT. A STREET, WASHINGTON D.C. - NIGHT

The Capitol Dome, hovering over Washington, seems close enough to touch. Forrest comes out of the apartment building. Jenny's standing on the sidewalk. Wesley, gone.

FORREST
Why do you let him hit you, Jenny?

She looks at him, and touching:

JENNY
How else am I going to know he loves me?

And it's quiet, Jenny looking down the street.

JENNY (cont'd)
(and she knows)
He's gone...

FORREST
(innocently)
I would never leave you, Jenny.

JENNY
(touched)
I know you wouldn't, Forrest.

It's quiet. She affectionately looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JENNY (cont'd)
You're very handsome in your uniform.

Embarrassed, he hides his head. But it isn't just from embarrassment:

JENNY (cont'd)
Forrest....Look at me, Forrest.

He looks up at her.

FORREST
(awkwardly, trying to articualte it)
I wish I was smarter, then maybe you could love me...

JENNY
I do love you. I love you just the way you are.

But that isn't what he means. And he says, from deep in his soul:

FORREST
I'm a man, too.

As she looks at his sweet face:

FORREST (OVER)
We stayed up all night just talking...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A DINER, WASHINGTON D.C. - LATE NIGHT

And we see Forrest and Jenny, the best of friends, sitting at a table by a window, talking.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A PARKING LOT, WASHINGTON D.C. - EARLY MORNING

It's drizzling. Buses idle, getting ready to leave, to take the demonstrators home. Forrest stands by a bus with Jenny.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
...Come stay with mama and me.
I'll be good to you, Jenny.

She shakes "no," she can't. And needing him to understand:

JENNY (cont'd)
...We have very different lives,
Forrest...

He's quiet. And after a moment, taking off his Congressional Medal of Honor, he puts it around her neck.

FORREST
(childish)
I won this for you. You made me brave.

JENNY
I can't take this, Forrest...

She starts to take the medal off. But Forrest, with his simple understanding:

FORREST
You need it more then I do.

JENNY
(a beat, looking at him)
Why are you so good to me?

FORREST
(adolescent)
You're my girl.

JENNY
(nods)
I'll always be your girl.

And she holds him, holding onto him for dear life. And turning she gets on the bus. She sits by a window looking out at him. The bus doors shut. She waves a small goodbye. The bus pulls off. And Forrest, stupidly, runs alongside the bus, keeping her in sight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
(calling)
Jenny...

He runs with the bus into the street, and keeps right on running alongside the bus up the block, running faster and faster to keep up, until the bus gathers enough speed to move away from him. And as he stands in the middle of the street, the bus moving further and further into the distance until it goes out of sight:

FORREST (OVER)
And the army sent me right back into duty.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. A GYMNASIUM, AN ARMY BASE, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S.A. - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
I was in the special services, traveling around the country, teaching other idiots how to play ping pong.

And we see Forrest, a whiz, never taking his eye off the ball, playing ping pong.

FORREST (OVER)
I was so good, some months later they asked me to play on a special ping pong team.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A WALL SOMEWHERE, 1971 - DAY

And we see Forrest, wearing a blue blazer with an American flag on the pocket, standing with a group of young Americans in blue blazers, along a wall. A PHOTOGRAPHER'S about to take their picture. And we see this isn't just any wall, but THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
We were the first Americans to visit China in about a million years or something...Somebody said, world peace was in our hands...

And as Forrest stupidly smiles for the photograph:

INT. A SPORTS PAVILION, CHINA - DAY

A cavernous, crowded, sports pavilion. And on the floor, at a solitary ping pong table, we see Forrest playing ping pong against a young, stoic, Chinese Man.

FORREST (OVER)
I beat everybody in sight, and I played for the championship. Their guy was called "Swift Like A Lotus Ching Dao," or something like that. And it was a national event.

INT. A RURAL CHINESE HOUSE - DAY

Villagers crowd a small house to overflowing, people standing outside, looking through the windows, watching the celebrated match on a television.

INT. A FACTORY IN CHINA - DAY

Factory workers crowded together watching the match on television.

INT. THE SPORTS PAVILION, CHINA - DAY

And it's a match for the ages. Forrest, idiotically, never taking his eye off the ball. Ching Dao slamming ball after ball at him.

FORREST (OVER)
We had one rally that lasted forty-two minutes...

And in Forrest's MIND'S EYE, in ANIMATION, the game's like a cartoon. Cartoon characters endlessly hitting the ball back and forth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
The match lasted for six hours and came down to the final point.

The men look at each other across the table. It's dead still. The young Chinese man says something to him.

FORREST
(to an Interpreter)
What did he say?

INTERPRETER
He said you're an American dog with the brain of a frog.

FORREST (OVER)
Now, I know we were supposed to be promoting world peace, and I was representing my country and all...

The young Chinese Man serves. Forrest returns it. The Chinese Man goes to get the ball, setting up for a kill.

FORREST (OVER)
Hey you...

He glances over at Forrest. And Forrest, in a rare moment of animosity, is making fun of the Chinaman, stretching his eyes the way children do, making fun of the shape of his eyes. And the Chinese Man, in a fit of pique, slams the ball out.

FORREST (OVER)
But it's not nice to call people frogs.

EXT. TIANANMEN SQUARE, CHINA - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
We met all these guys in little hats with red stars. One of them had this secret smile. And everybody called him Chairman.

And we see Forrest shaking hands with Chairman Mao Tse-Tung himself.

FORREST (OVER)
He invited me to go for a swim.

EXT. A RIVER IN CHINA - DAY

And we see Forrest, bobbing, swimming with Mao and the Chinese leaders. Chairman Mao swims further and further out. He waves. Everybody waves to him, smiling. He waves twice. Everybody waves, smiling. He waves a third time. Everybody waving, smiling.

FORREST (OVER)
And I realized the man they called the Chairman, with the secret smile, wasn't waving because he was happy, but because he was drowning.

And Chairman Mao disappears under the water. And Forrest, innocent, just doing what comes natural, quickly swims out to him. He dives under for him.

EXT. THE RIVER, UNDERWATER - DAY

Forrest pulls the rotund Chairman to the surface.

EXT. THE RIVER - DAY

He puts him on his back.

FORREST (OVER)
And I swam him to the shore.

And we see Forrest, Chairman Mao on his back, swimming to the shore.

FORREST (OVER)
I can tell you one thing, he was a load and a half.

Forrest is mobbed by the grateful Chinese.

FORREST (OVER)
Everybody was real proud of me, except some of the Americans, because they said the world would be better off if he drowned. I don't know anything about that. But I know he never called me a frog, or something stupid like that.

INT. THE AIRPORT, CHINA - DAY

Forrest, a hero in China, is escorted by an adoring crowd to the boarding gate. Little Girls give him flowers. People, waving. Forrest slows. A little Chinese Boy, with the slow eyes of a simpleton, holding his mother's hand, is looking at him. Forrest crosses to the boy. And in a gesture of friendship, gives him a ping pong ball, one idiot to another. The boy holds the ball in his little hand. And as Forrest waves, turning to the door to the plane, the Little Boy throws the ball at him, hitting Forrest in the back of the head.

FORREST (OVER)
When I got home I was a national celebrity.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. A TELEVISION STUDIO, THE DICK CAVETT SHOW - NIGHT

DICK CAVETT
(introducing him)
Forrest Gump...

And Forrest, wearing his blue blazer with the American flag on the pocket, looking lost, comes through the curtains. He awkwardly crosses to sit on a couch with the other celebrities on the evening's program.

FORREST (OVER)
Now, when I was in China, I took a liking to fried rice. I musta ate about a million bowls of it...

DICK CAVETT
(his smile)
Well, you had quite a trip to China. Tell us about it?

Forrest looks at him, and he can't help it, but all that fried rice he ate, to everybody's chagrin, loudly expresses itself...

INT. A REC ROOM, A V.A. HOSPITAL, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
Now the army knows a busy soldier is a good soldier, and they kept me busy...

Wounded veterans crowd a V.A. Hospital rec room watching the world famous whiz play ping pong.

FORREST (OVER)
And at one of them hospitals I got a big surprise.

INT. A REC ROOM, ANOTHER V.A. HOSPITAL - DAY

Forrest, never taking his eye off the ball, is playing for some wounded veterans.

A MAN'S VOICE (OVER)
Why don't you get a life, you asshole?

Forrest turns. And sitting there in his wheelchair, is Lt. Dan.

FORREST (OVER)
I was sure happy to see him...
(a beat)
But that little black cloud had become a big old storm.

And in Forrest's MIND'S EYE, a STORM is hanging over Lt. Dan's head. His earlier philosphical bent has turned to outright fury...

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

Forrest follows Lt. Dan, on the move, through the city.

FORREST (OVER)
He said he was living in a hotel and spent most of his time exercising...

INT. A TIMES SQUARE HOTEL - DAY

And we see Lt. Dan, in a fleabag Times Square hotel, sitting in his wheelchair by a window, doing his daily "exercise," drinking.

EXT. THE NEW YORK STREET - DAY

Forrest and Lt. Dan moving along the street.

LT. DAN
(couldn't give a shit)
I'm living off the government tit...Sucking it dry...

And like Ratso Rizzo, Lt. Dan brazenly crosses the street, smacking the palm of his hand on cars that dare to come too close to him.

LT. DAN (cont'd)
(to a car)
Fuck you...!

As he wheels through traffic:

FORREST (OVER)
And he had taken up an interest in religion.

LT. DAN
Have you found Christ yet, Forrest?

FORREST
(stupidly)
I didn't know I was supposed to be looking for him.

LT. DAN
(laughs)
That's what all the cripples at the V.A. talk about. Jesus this and Jesus that. Have I found Jesus? You know what I tell them? Let him find me...
(wheeling through traffic)
"Salvation..." Everybody talks about salvation. How we're going to be saved. I think heaven's a big crock of shit...

And in Forrest's MIND'S EYE, we see his VISION of HEAVEN. It's like a painting in a child's Sunday School book.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Forrest, walking with Jenny, along the Mississippi country road. And a shaft of God's light at the end of the road.

FORREST
(simply)
I want to go to heaven, Lt. Dan.

LT. DAN
(looks at him)
How come when I'm with you I always feel like I'm fucking talking to myself?

He smacks a car's hood.

LT. DAN (cont'd)
Watch it, asshole!

And as Forrest, with Lt. Dan, the storm broiling over his head, move along the street:

FORREST (OVER)
I got to meet some of his good friends...

INT. A TIMES SQUARE BAR - NIGHT

Lt. Dan wheels through a crowded alcoholics' heaven, a Times Square bar, introducing Forrest to his "friends." He introduces Forrest to two worn out Women who've obviously been around the block...

LT. DAN
(shouting, above the din)
...This is Carla, and Lenore...

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - NIGHT

And Lt. Dan with Carla, Forrest with Lenore, drinking out of a bottle in a paper bag, come through Times Square. And it's packed, literally jammed with people waiting for the ball to drop to celebrate the New Year.

LENORE
(shouting, to Forrest)
Don't you just love New Year's?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Forrest's never really thought about it.

LENORE (cont'd)
(shouting)
You get a whole 'nother chance... Everybody deserves another chance...

And looking at her, Forrest finds himself IMAGINING Jenny's standing there. And the reality is:

INT. AN APARTMENT SOMEWHERE - NIGHT

There's an electric guitar. The paraphernalia of a musician. And we see a young Man with tattoos, asleep on a bed. And we see Jenny, bruises on her face, battered, looking at herself in a dresser mirror. Looking down she sees Forrest's Medal of Honor among her jewelry. She quietly looks at it. After some moments, she gets up. She takes a small bag. She packs some things. And without looking back, she leaves. Just floating around in the breeze...

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - NEW YEARS EVE

And the countdown for the New Year's has started, the crowd shouting... "Six...!" "Five...!" "Four...!" "Three...!" "Two...!" "One...!" And there's a deafening roar. People going crazy, packed together, kissing anybody in sight. Carla and Lenore kiss strangers. And as the people celebrate the New Year, Forrest standing with Lt. Dan:

FORREST
Happy New Year Lt. Dan...

FORREST (OVER)
And for some reason Lt. Dan was crying.

Tears run down the veteran's face.

FORREST (OVER)
I guess he didn't believe he got another chance.

INT. LT. DAN'S HOTEL ROOM, TIMES SQUARE - NIGHT

And we see Lt. Dan, naked to the waist, Carla, completely naked, sitting astride him, laughing, drunk, as they wildly careen around the room in his wheelchair. Forrest and Lenore are sitting on a couch watching them. Lenore, laughing uproarious. And in her drunken hilarity, she pushes Forrest down onto the couch, passionately kissing him. He pulls away...

LENORE
(hurtful)
What are you stupid or something?!

Forrest, embarrassed, turns away from her.

LENORE (cont'd)
(to Lt. Dan)
Is your friend stupid or something?!

And Lt. Dan suddenly stops.

LT. DAN
(shouting)
Don't you ever call him stupid!

Enraged, he dumps Carla off his lap.

LT. DAN (cont'd)
Now get out of here! Both of you...Just get the fuck out..!

And he chases them out. Slamming the door, he wheels over to sit silently looking out the window. And it's quiet, the muffled roar from Times Square.

FORREST
I'm sorry I wrecked the party Lt. Dan. Her lipstick tasted funny.

FORREST (OVER)
And he said something I'll never forget.

LT. DAN
(his back to him)
I never thanked you for saving my life...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Forrest shrugs, it never occurred to him.

FORREST (OVER)
I guess he figured there's some things you just can't change. He didn't want to be crippled just like I didn't want to be stupid...
(a beat)
And that storm just upped and blew away.

And we see in Forrest's MIND'S EYE the STORM over Lt. Dan's head blow away.

LT. DAN
(a beat)
Happy New Year, Forrest...

And as Forrest comes to stand by him, best good friends, watching the people in Times Square celebrate the New Year:

FORREST (OVER)
...They invited that ping pong team to the White House to see the President, to tell him all about our ping pongin' in China. And they got me a room in a fine hotel...

EXT. A HOTEL, WASHINGTON D.C., 1972 - LATE NIGHT

And we see a sign identifying the hotel complex as "The Watergate."

INT. "THE WATERGATE" HOTEL - LATE NIGHT

And we see Forrest lying in bed, asleep. Awakened by some noises, he gets up, looking out the window. And he sees, in an office building across the way, figures furtively moving around a dark office. He goes to the phone.

FORREST
(on the phone)
I want to talk to somebody about some noises keepin' me up.

After a moment:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A MAN'S VOICE (OVER)
(on phone)
Security. Frank Wills.

FORREST
I'm tryin' to get some sleep and somebody's monkeying around in an office.

THE SECURITY MAN (OVER)
(on phone)
I'll look into it, sir.

Forrest hangs up. He gets back into bed. And as he falls back to sleep:

INT. THE OVAL OFFICE, THE WHITE HOUSE - DAY

And we see President Nixon, shaking hands with the American ping pong team. As the President shakes Forrest's hand unaware of the irony:

PRESIDENT NIXON
(congratulating him)
Good work, son.

FORREST (OVER)
Two years later, for some reason, that President quit, and went home to California to walk on the beach and think things over.

As Nixon smiles at him:

FORREST (OVER)
I didn't know it, but my life was about to make a change in direction.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. A GYMNASIUM, AN ARMY BASE SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S., 1973 - DAY

An empty gym. And we see Forrest, practicing, has wheeled a ping pong table against a wall, never taking his eye off the ball, playing ping pong against himself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

There's the sound of footsteps. Forrest turns. And an officer is coming across the gym.

AN OFFICER
Forrest Gump?

FORREST
Yes, sir.

THE OFFICER
I have your discharge papers.

Forrest doesn't understand.

THE OFFICER (cont'd)
Your service is up, son.

FORREST
Does this mean I can't play ping pong anymore?

THE OFFICER
For the army it does.

He gives Forrest his walking papers, salutes, and leaves.

FORREST (OVER)
Now, I'm not a thief or nothin', but I figure the army took somethin' from me, so it was okay for me to take somethin' from them. And I stole that ping pong paddle.

Forrest takes the ping pong paddle. He crosses the empty gym. And as he leaves the service behind him:

EXT. THE BUS BENCH, NEW ORLEANS, THE PRESENT - DAY

The fat Man is gone. And an elderly southern woman, holding her handbag and a handkerchief, sits down beside him.

FORREST
(smiles)
Hello, I'm Forrest. Forrest Gump.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE ELDERLY WOMAN
(dignified)
Mildred Wilson, Mr. Gump.

FORREST
(going into his pocket)
Can I offer you a chocolate?

THE ELDERLY WOMAN
No, thank you. But that's most kind.

Forrest unwraps it, eating it himself.

FORREST
I was just saying life's full of surprises.

EXT. GREENBOW, MISSISSIPPI, 1973 - DAY

And we see Forrest, no longer in his uniform, carrying his duffel bag and his ping pong paddle, coming along the main street of the small southern town. The people stop what they're doing, looking at him, the town idiot, the way they always did. And as he moves along the dusty road under some weeping willows on his way home:

FORREST (OVER)
Now, because I had been a football star, a war hero, a national celebrity and all, they gave me a job....

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD, GREENBOW, MISSISSIPPI, 1974 - DAY

A light breeze is blowing. And we see Forrest, in the distance, coming across the football field. As he comes closer we realize he's mowing the grass. The school's gardener.

FORREST (OVER)
I was happy bein' home...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. "THE GUMP" BOARDING HOUSE - DAY

And we see Forrest sitting with his mother and some boarders, eating at a crowded dining room table.

EXT. "THE GUMP" HOUSE - NIGHT

A light snow is falling.

FORREST (OVER)
But I'd think about Jenny alot...

And we see Forrest standing in his bedroom window looking outside.

FORREST (OVER)
...That anytime now I'd see her coming along the road.

And in his IMAGINATION he sees Jenny coming through the snow along the country road. And the reality is:

INT. A CITY APARTMENT SOMEWHERE - NIGHT

A small apartment. It's dark. A light on in a hallway. The door opens. And we see Jenny, in a spaghetti-strap cocktail dress, coming home from a night of trying to give herself away. She sits on a couch. And as she sits on the couch, very much alone...

EXT. MISSISSIPPI - DAY

The snow falling. Forrest, standing in the window, looking for Jenny.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD, GREENBOW, MISSISSIPPI, 1974 - DAY

Forrest, dutifully mowing the lawn.

FORREST (OVER)
Now, I had saved up some money...
And I had made me a promise to Bubba...

EXT. THE COUNTRY ROAD, GREENBOW MISSISSIPPI - DAY

And we see Mrs. Gump standing with Forrest, a suitcase at his feet, in the country road. A Bus pulls to a stop.

MRS. GUMP
(after a beat)
You come back safe to me, you hear?

FORREST
I will, mama.

Forrest turns to get on the bus. He hesitates:

FORREST (cont'd)
(to the Bus Driver)
I'm Forrest. Forrest Gump.

THE BUS DRIVER
Homer Stevens, Forrest...good to meet you.

And feeling safe, Forrest gets on the bus. He waves to his mother. The bus doors shut. And as the bus drives off:

FORREST (OVER)
And I never break a promise...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A RURAL DIRT ROAD - DAY

And we see Forrest, his suitcase in his hand, coming along a dirt road through a small rural Black community. Weather-beaten shacks are on stilts. And as far as the eye can see, is the Louisiana bayou. "Bayou La Batre, Louisiana."

FORREST (OVER)
I met Bubba's kinfolk...and I got quite a greetin'...

EXT. A SHACK, BAYOU LA BATRE - DAY

And we see BUBBA'S MOTHER, her arms folded across her chest, standing with Bubba's brothers and sisters on the porch of a small shack, looking at Forrest.

BUBBA'S MOTHER
Are you crazy or just stupid?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
(shrugs)
Just stupid I guess...

BUBBA'S MOTHER
(nods)
I guess...

And as Bubba's family looks at him, a stranger in a strange land:

FORREST (OVER)
And I went to see old Bubba...

EXT. A SMALL BAYOU GRAVEYARD - DAY

And we see Forrest quietly standing in a small graveyard at his good best friend's grave.

FORREST
Hello, Bubba...It's me, Forrest...

FORREST (OVER)
Bubba and me had talked about it so many times I knew it by heart...

EXT. A DOCK ON THE BAYOU - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
Everybody was real helpful...

Forrest, standing on a dock, looking at an old boat, is talking to a Black Man. The Man looks at Forrest like he's out of his fucking mind.

THE MAN
Tell me something, are you stupid?

FORREST (OVER)
And I bought me a boat...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE LOUISIANA BAYOU - DAYBREAK

It's still. And we see, far in the distance, the old boat making its way across the horizon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
I hired a hand...

EXT. THE BAYOU - DAWN

And we see Forrest, along with a young Black Man, STANLEY LOOMIS, laying out nets.

FORREST (OVER)
And went directly into the shrimpin' business...

And as the dawn breaks, Forrest and Stanley harvesting the bayou:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A WEIGHING STATION, THE BAYOU - LATE AFTERNOON

FORREST (OVER)
Since Bubba and me were partners I split everything we made right down the middle.

A wholesaler weighs Forrest's catch. He pays Forrest. As Forrest puts half in one pocket and half in the other:

EXT. THE BAYOU - NIGHT

FORREST (OVER)
Stanley was real smart. And he taught me how to play chess.

And we see Forrest and Stanley sitting on the deck of the boat playing chess in the moonlight.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FORREST'S BOAT - NIGHT

Forrest, lying on his bunk, drifting to sleep, looks out a small window at the moon. And in his MIND'S EYE, he pictures Jenny, like the Chagall painting, floating around the moon. And the reality is:

EXT. A CITY STREET - NIGHT

And we see a group of chic, wired people, coming out of a club. And amongst them, pale and much thinner, is Jenny. They pass a vial around, tooting coke. Jenny snorts her share. And as they move along the street like a pack of hungry wolves:

INT. A HIGHRISE APARTMENT - NIGHT

And we see Jenny, with the wolf pack, in a crowded apartment. A Man motions her into a bedroom.

THE MAN
Try some of this...

He's cooking up. She sits on the bed. He takes her arm. She hesitates, and shrugging, she's got nothing to lose, she lets him fix her. After some moments, getting up, she crosses outside to a balcony.

EXT. BALCONY, HIGHRISE APARTMENT - NIGHT

She looks up at the moon. And for a moment it seems as if she's going jump, just "fly away." She stops herself. She cradles her arms protectively across her chest. And she starts to cry. And as she stands on the balcony crying, just floating around in the breeze:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BAYOU LA BATRE, LOUISIANA - DUSK

The lights have come on in the shacks along the shore.

FORREST (OVER)
Now, I had written to a friend seein' if he wanted to come shrimpin' with me...

And we see Forrest's boat, Stanley at the helm, Forrest standing on the bow, looking like the idiot he is, coming in from a day's work...And we see a FIGURE in the distance is waiting on the dock. And as the boat comes closer, we can see, sitting in his wheelchair on the dock, LT. DAN. And Forrest, excited to see him, can't wait, and he stupidly jumps in the water, swimming to the dock. As he climbs onto the dock:

CONTINUED:

FORREST
(smiles, idiotic)
I did like you said, Lt. Dan, I got me a life.

LT. DAN
(looking at him)
You're still an asshole.

FORREST (OVER)
Lt. Dan took to it like a duck to water.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THEIR BOAT ON THE BAYOU - DAY

Forrest, Lt. Dan in his wheelchair, along with Stanley, working hard, shrimping.

FORREST (OVER)
He even went to church with me...

And there's the sound of gospel music:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. A CHURCH, BAYOU LA BATRE - DAY

A stone Black Gospel Church. And we see Forrest, in a purple choir robe, the only white face in sight, playing harmonica with the church choir. Lt. Dan sits in his wheelchair along a wall in the back, silently watching him. The song's "On Higher Ground." And the congregation joins in, the small church filled with the good noise of faith. And as Lt. Dan sits in the back, still pissed off at God:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE BAYOU - DUSK

FORREST (OVER)
Now we was just a little fish in a big pond...

And we see Forrest, Lt. Dan and Stanley, working on the shrimp boat, the other shrimp boats all around them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
And God came along...

The wind shifts. And it starts to rain.

EXT. BAYOU LA BATRE - DAY

And the wind's become a hurricane, pummeling the small community.

EXT. THE DOCKS - DAY

Fishermen are frantically trying to secure their boats.

FORREST (OVER)
Now, that boat bein' all we got, we decided to sink or swim with it...

And we see Forrest and Lt. Dan on their boat, heading out into the storm.

FORREST (OVER)
Everybody wished us well...

A FISHERMAN
(shouting)
Are you stupid...!?

And as they head into the hurricane:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE BAYOU - DAY

The boat's being tossed like paper in the wind. Lt. Dan and Forrest, at the boat's wheel, fighting to keep the boat from crashing into the shore.

FORREST (OVER)
And we battled that old hurricane...

And we see in his MIND'S EYE, in ANIMATION, like a Mickey Mouse cartoon, the boat fighting the hurricane. Old Man Wind, blowing up a storm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
...Until it said "uncle."

And we see in ANIMATION Old Man Hurricane Wind saying "Uncle!"

EXT. THE BAYOU - DAY

And it's still. The storm passed. Forrest and Lt. Dan, exhausted, quietly sit on the deck of their battered old boat.

FORREST (OVER)
And we were the only boat left standin'...

And as far as the eye can see, strewn along the shore, is the wreckage of the shrimp fleet.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE BAYOU - ANOTHER DAY

FORREST (OVER)
And since people still needed them shrimps for shrimp cocktails, and barbeques and all, "Bubba-Gump Shrimp," was all they got.

And we see Forrest's boat, the only boat left in the water, shrimping.

FORREST (OVER)
And we made more money then Davy Crockett.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A WATERFRONT WAREHOUSE, LOUISIANA - DAY

And we see Forrest, wearing a brand new suit, standing beside Lt. Dan outside the warehouse of "The Bubba-Gump Shrimp Company."

EXT. BAYOU LA BATRE - DAYBREAK

The sun's coming up over the horizon. And we see Forrest standing on the bow of their old boat, Lt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dan sitting beside him, and Stanley at the helm, heading out to sea. We PULL BACK, and we see behind them, a fleet of "Bubba Gump" shrimp boats, following their idiot leader out to sea.

FORREST (OVER)
"Bubba-Gump" shrimp become a household name.

And we see a TELEVISION COMMERCIAL. An ANNOUNCER'S VOICE: "Shrimp so fresh it could almost talk." And the now famous TALKING SHRIMP with its high-pitched voice:

THE TALKING SHRIMP
"If it isn't "Bubba-Gump," it isn't shrimp."

EXT. THE BAYOU - NIGHT

The boat's anchored offshore. And we see Forrest and Lt. Dan, sitting on the deck of their old boat, drinking a beer, quietly enjoying their success.

FORREST (OVER)
Now, mama always said, don't ever think you got it made...

A Man comes down to the water's edge:

THE MAN
(shouting)
You got a phone call, Forrest...

And as Forrest moronically dives in the water, swimming to the shore:

FORREST (OVER)
And I was on my way home again.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE COUNTRY ROAD, MISSISSIPPI - DAY

And we see Forrest, wearing his new suit, carrying his old suitcase, walking along the country road on his way home.

EXT. "THE GUMP" BOARDING HOUSE - DAY

He comes into the yard. Some people are standing on the front porch.

FORREST
Where's mama?

A MAN
Up in bed.

Forrest goes inside.

INT. THE BOARDING HOUSE, MRS. GUMP'S ROOM - DAY

Forrest comes in. And his mother, pale and withered, is propped up with pillows. The Country Doctor, the man who had put braces on Forrest's legs, an old man now, is leaving.

THE DOCTOR
(seeing Forrest)
We sure got you straightened out, didn't we?

And he leaves. After some moments:

FORREST
What's wrong, mama?

MRS. GUMP
I'm dying, Forrest.

FORREST
Dying?

FORREST (OVER)
Mama had got the cancer.

MRS. GUMP
(pats the bed)
Come and sit here.

He quietly sits on the bed. He tries not to cry, but he can't help himself. Mrs. Gump, comforts him.

MRS. GUMP (cont'd)
(after a beat)
Remember what I told you?

CONTINUED:

FORREST
(nods, tearful)
Don't let anybody tell you they're better than you.

She nods.

MRS. GUMP
And always keep your shoes clean. You never know who you're going to meet.

FORREST
I will mama.

It's quiet. After some moments:

FORREST (cont'd)
What does "destiny" mean, mama?

MRS. GUMP
Destiny? It's when you're born to do something, but you don't know what it is. I didn't know it, but I was born to be your mother. I did the best I could.

FORREST
(childlike, tenderly)
You did better then good.

She holds his hand.

FORREST (cont'd)
(after a beat)
What's my destiny, mama?

MRS. GUMP
You'll have to find that out for yourself.

FORREST
(a rare moment of self-evaluation)
I'm sure trying, mama.

And they're quiet. After some moments:

CONTINUED:

MRS. GUMP
I'll miss you, Forrest.

And as he sits on the bed, his dying mother holding her baby boy's hand:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE BOARDING HOUSE, MRS. GUMP'S ROOM - NIGHT

Forrest's sitting on the bed. His mother's eyes closed, softly breathing.

FORREST
(reading)
"...Curious George was sad. He didn't want to be all alone. He wanted somebody to play with."
"He went looking for his friend, the man in the yellow hat..."

And we see in Forrest's MIND'S EYE, in ANIMATION, Curious George playing catch with the man in the yellow hat.

FORREST (cont'd)
(reading)
"It felt good to have a friend."

FORREST (OVER)
Mama died on a Tuesday. I bought her a new hat with little flowers on it. And that's all I have to say about that.

EXT. THE BUS BENCH IN NEW ORLEANS, THE PRESENT - AFTERNOON

The bench beside Forrest is empty, the elderly southern Woman having gotten on a bus. She's left behind her handkerchief. Forrest, for no particular reason, puts it in his pocket. He quietly looks at his shoes. He wipes some dirt off of them. And a young Latin Woman, dressed for a date, sits down on the bench.

FORREST
(after a beat, smiles)
Hello, I'm Forrest. Forrest Gump.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She protectively pulls her sweater together.

FORREST
I was just saying how life can be awful funny sometimes.

She doesn't know what he's talking about. And as he looks at his shoes:

EXT. THE FOOTBALL FIELD, THE HIGH SCHOOL IN MISSISSIPPI, 1976 - DAY

And we see Forrest, back to doing what he knows best, mowing the grass.

FORREST (OVER)
With mama bein' gone and all, I decided to get out of the shrimpin' business and stay at home in Mississippi...
(a beat)
Now, mama said there's only so much money a man needs, and the rest is just for show...so I gave a whole bunch of it to the Foursquare Gospel Church...

EXT. THE GOSPEL CHURCH, BAYOU LA BATRE - DAY

And we see there's a new edition on the church. "The Forrest Gump Daycare Center."

FORREST (OVER)
...The Bayou La Batre Hospital.

EXT. A HOSPITAL, BAYOU LA BATRE - DAY

And on a new wing is: "The Gump Medical Center."

FORREST (OVER)
And to Stanley Loomis.

EXT. BAYOU LA BATRE - DAY

And we see Stanley asleep in a hammock, able to comfortably sleep for the rest of his life.

FORREST (OVER)
I gave Bubba's mama his share...

EXT. BUBBA'S MOTHER'S SHACK, BAYOU LA BATRE - EVENING

And we see Bubba's mother opening a letter. As she looks at a check with amazement:

FORREST (OVER)
Sometime later I heard Bubba's mama took that money and bought a condominium in Florida...

INT. AN EXPENSIVE FLORIDA CONDOMINIUM - EVENING

FORREST (OVER)
...And she didn't have to work in nobody's kitchen anymore...

And we see Bubba's mother happily eating, a white woman doing the cooking for her.

EXT. THE FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

Forrest mowing the grass.

FORREST (OVER)
The rest of it I let Lt. Dan take care of. He got me invested in some kind of fruit company... somethin' called Apple or somethin' like that...and I didn't have to think about money no more.....
(a beat)
The real good news was...

INT. THE GOSPEL CHURCH, BAYOU LA BATRE - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
...I heard Lt. Dan had made peace with his God...

And we see Lt. Dan, in a purple robe, singing with the choir.

EXT. THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

As he moves across the football field mowing the grass:

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
I still thought about Jenny all the time...
(after a beat)
Somebody said they saw her in a movie. And I guess her wish come true, she was famous, a true life movie star...

INT. A MOVIE THEATER - NIGHT

Forrest sits in a nearly empty theater. And on the screen is a PORNO MOVIE. And we see Jenny, a "movie star" alright, lying naked on a bed with a man and a woman. And yet, in Forrest's MIND'S EYE, on the screen, she has angel wings. And as Jenny, with her sad eyes, looks out at the audience, Forrest IMAGINES her saying:

JENNY
(from the screen)
Hello, Forrest...

EXT. THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

As Forrest dutifully mows the lawn:

JENNY'S VOICE (OVER)
Hello, Forrest.

He turns.

FORREST (OVER)
And then she was there.

And coming across the football field, her hands in her coat pockets, is really Jenny. The last traces of the girl that was in her, is gone. But Forrest doesn't notice.

FORREST
(smiles)
Hello, Jenny...

He crosses to her. They embrace.

FORREST (OVER)
I never really knew why she came back...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER) (cont'd)
I guess she had nowhere else to go...

(a beat)
Maybe it was destiny...Maybe she had just run out of breeze...

And as she holds him for dear life:

EXT. THE COUNTRY ROAD, MISSISSIPPI - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
And it was like old times. We were like two peas in a pod again.

And like old times they walk together along the country road.

FORREST (OVER)
We had a lot of catchin' up to do...

As they walk along the road:

FORREST (OVER)
...I told her all about my ping-pongin in China, and my shrimpin' in Bayou La Batre. And I told her about mama makin' the trip to heaven...

The sun starts to go down.

FORREST (OVER)
And she was quiet, like she had nothin' to say about all them years...

And Jenny sees they've come to the dirt road leading to her father's house. She stops, looking down the road at the long since abandoned house. And drawn to the house, she quietly walks down the dirt road. She stops in front of the old house. It's still. The cotton fields overgrown with wildflowers. A breeze rustles her clothing. She looks at the house. And for her legacy, the sins of her father, the wreckage of her life:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JENNY
(quietly)
How could you do this to me?

She's still. And she suddenly takes up a rock, throwing it at the house.

JENNY (cont'd)
(shouting)
How could you do this to me...!?

And she takes up another rock, throwing it at the house. And another rock. And another. Futilely throwing rocks at the house, trying to exorcise her demons. And the effort causes her to stumble. She sits in the dirt, crying. And Forrest, not really understanding, but doing what's natural, sits beside her, comforting her.

FORREST (OVER)
Sometimes I guess there just aren't enough rocks...

And as they sit in the dirt with her past, Jenny holding onto him for dear life:

FORREST (OVER)
Jenny stayed with me...

INT. "THE GUMP" BOARDING HOUSE, A GUEST ROOM - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
She stayed in the room that young singer had been in...And I put flowers in the room for her...

We see Forrest putting some freshly cut flowers in a vase on a table under a window.

FORREST (OVER)
And Jenny went to sleep...

And we see Forrest quietly looking in the guest room. Jenny, sleeping.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
And she slept, and slept, like she hadn't slept in years, and was tryin' to catch up for all them missed years...

And as Jenny sleeps in the guest room, the flowers under the window:

FORREST (OVER)
Everyday we'd take a walk...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

And we see Forrest and Jenny, like kids, happily walking and talking.

FORREST (OVER)
She showed me how to dance...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. "THE GUMP" BOARDING HOUSE - EVENING

Music's playing. And we see Forrest and Jenny, like teenagers, dancing in the front room...

FORREST (OVER)
And we was like a family...Jenny and me...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. "THE GUMP" HOUSE - SUNSET

Forrest and Jenny sit in rocking chairs on the porch, watching the sun go down.

FORREST (OVER)
And it was the happiest time of my life...As close as you could get on this earth to heaven...

And as they sit on the porch in the twilight:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. "THE GUMP" BOARDING HOUSE - ANOTHER NIGHT

Forrest is watching television. Jenny, restless, stands by a window looking outside. There's an awkward quiet. After some moments:

JENNY
Goodnight...

She starts up the stairs. And Forrest blurts out:

FORREST
Would you marry me, Jenny?

She slows.

FORREST (cont'd)
...I know I'm not the smartest man around...but I'd make a good husband, Jenny. I'd be a good father...

JENNY
(tenderly)
You would, Forrest.

But even he knows she isn't saying "yes."

FORREST
(a beat)
Why won't you marry me?

She's quiet. And he asks a bigger, heartbreaking question:

FORREST (cont'd)
Why can't you love me?

And it's a question that's too difficult for her to answer. And he answers it for her.

FORREST (cont'd)
You think because I'm stupid I'm a child. Everybody treats me like a child...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (cont'd)
(a beat, pained)
I'm not a child. I know what's goin' on. I heard people call people "niggers." I seen men so scared they cried like babies. I seen men die.
(a beat)
I might be stupid, but I'm not a child.

And getting up, he crosses out of the house.

INT. FORREST'S ROOM - NIGHT

Forrest lies in bed quietly looking out the window. There's a slight sound. He turns. And Jenny, in her nightgown, has come into the room. She gets into bed with him, lying beside him. They look at each other. She affectionately pushes some hair off his forehead. And she kisses him.

FORREST
(boyish)
What if I get you wet again?

JENNY
(tenderly)
You'll do just fine.

And as they make love like adults, no longer in his imagination:

INT. FORREST'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Forrest's asleep. And we see Jenny, dressed, standing in the bedroom doorway, watching him sleep. And after some moments, she turns and leaves:

EXT. "THE GUMP" BOARDING HOUSE - NIGHT

Jenny, carrying her suitcase, comes out of the house. She crosses the yard to the road.

FORREST (OVER)
And then she was gone...

And as Jenny moves off along the country road into the night, for some reason, she doesn't seem to be just floating around in the breeze anymore...

INT. FORREST'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

And as Forrest sleeps:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. "THE GUMP" HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

Forrest quietly sits on the porch in a rocking chair.

FORREST (OVER)
The next day, for no particular reason, I decided to go for a little run...

Getting up, he walks across the yard to the country road. And as he starts to run:

EXT. THE COUNTRY ROAD, MISSISSIPPI - EARLY MORNING

Forrest running along the country road.

FORREST (OVER)
And I ran to the end of the road...

He comes to a field at the end of the road.

FORREST (OVER)
And when I got there, I thought, maybe I'd run to the end of town...

As he runs across the field:

EXT. GREENBOW, MISSISSIPPI - EARLY MORNING

He comes running along the main street to the end of the small town.

FORREST (OVER)
And when I got there, I thought, maybe I'll run across Wilson County...

EXT. A RURAL ROAD, MISSISSIPPI - AFTERNOON

And we see Forrest, for no particular reason, stupidly running across the county. As he reaches the county line:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
And I figured since I gone this far, maybe I'd just run across the great state of Mississippi...

And as he runs into the distance, the sun going down...

FORREST (OVER)
And that's what I did...I ran clear across Mississippi...And for no particular reason, I just kept on goin'...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. VARIOUS PLACES - VARIOUS TIMES

Forrest, for no particular reason, running and running.

FORREST (OVER)
...Through Louisiana, and Texas...

Over highways and byways. Through fields and small towns.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A ROAD, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - NIGHT

Forrest, in the moonlight, running along an empty road.

FORREST (OVER)
I thought about mama, and Bubba, and Lt. Dan...

And in his MIND'S EYE we see affectionate glimpses of them.

FORREST (OVER)
But most of the time I'd think about Jenny.

And we see in his IMAGINATION, Jenny standing in the road in the moonlight. And the reality is:

INT. A RESTAURANT, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - NIGHT

And we see Jenny, a cocktail waitress, waiting on tables. And the shadow of her sadness is gone.

EXT. THE EMPTY ROAD, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - NIGHT

And as he runs into the night:

FORREST (OVER)
And for some reason, I just kept on goin'...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. A RURAL ROAD, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - DAY

Forrest stupidly running.

FORREST (OVER)
And people started to hear about my runnin', and they'd come to watch me...

EXT. A SMALL TOWN, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - DAY

People standing outside their houses, waving to Forrest as he runs by.

EXT. FARMLANDS, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - DAY

Farmers waving to Forrest as he runs by.

FORREST (OVER)
And them news people heard about me...

And WE SEE Dan Rather on a television.

DAN RATHER
For almost two years now, a man named Forrest Gump, a gardener from Greenbow Mississippi, has been running across America.

EXT. A HIGHWAY, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - DAY

And we see a convoy of "Press" cars, with television cameras and reporters, following Forrest on his "journey."

A. REPORTER
(shouting)
Why are you running?

He stupidly shrugs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
They just couldn't believe somebody would be so stupid to do all that runnin' for no reason at all...

ANOTHER REPORTER
(shouting)
...Are you doing this for world peace?

FORREST
(simply answers)
We sure ought to have world peace.

ANOTHER REPORTER
Are you running for the homeless?

FORREST
(obviously)
Everybody should have a home...

FORREST (OVER)
And they asked me if I was runnin' for abortion rights, or the environment, or nuclear arms...

He looks at them. And the only thing he can think of to say is:

FORREST
I got to go pee.

And as he stops to take a pee in a field, the whole world watching:

FORREST (OVER)
And people started to show up along the way with signs...

EXT. ANOTHER ROAD, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - DAY

And we see people with signs, from "Jesus Saves," to "Save The Whales," lining the road, cheering Forrest as he runs by: And a plane's written in the sky: "God Bless Forrest Gump."

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
I heard later I was in all sorts of magazines and newspapers...

And we see Forrest on the cover of various magazines. Even, "The National Enquirer." The front page captioned: "I Was Forrest Gump's Love Slave."

FORREST (OVER)
And I guess they even talked about me on television.

And we see Ted Koppel on "Nightline:"

TED KOPPEL
Forrest Gump. We'll get to the bottom of his story, tonight on "Nightline."

FORREST (OVER)
And somebody even made a button out of me and got rich off it...

And we see the popular yellow button with his stupid looking "happy face."

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ANOTHER ROAD, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - DAY

Forrest stupidly running along another road.

FORREST (OVER)
Now for some reason what I was doing semed to make sense to people. Somebody later told me it gave people hope. I don't know anything about that, but I got company.

And as he comes through a small town a young man comes to run with him.

THE YOUNG MAN
This is sure a great thing you're doing, calling attention to the world's problems.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
(shrugs, stupidly)
I just felt like runnin'.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ANOTHER ROAD, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
And I got more company...

And we pull back, and we see, the numbers have swelled, more and more people have joined his "crusade," stupidly running alongside him.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ANOTHER ROAD, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
And a whole lot more company...

And from a Heli-opter shot we see, the road is filled with people following in the footsteps of the world's biggest idiot, Forrest Gump.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ANOTHER ROAD, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - DUSK

The sun's starting to set on the horizon. And we see the endless stream of people running after Forrest up a hill.

FORREST (OVER)
Now Mama always said you got to put the past behind you before you can move on...

He looks back, in the waning sunlight, at all the people behind him. And he has an epipnany, a moment of recognition.

FORREST (OVER)
And maybe that's what my runnin' was all about.

He comes to the top of the hill.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
I had run for four years, two months, fourteen days and sixteen hours...And I figured that was good enough...

And he slows to a walk, and he just stops, his running done. Everybody comes to a stop. And it's dead quiet, everybody waiting for their idiot Messiah to say something, to offer some words of wisdom, as to what the lesson of it is. And he says:

FORREST
(simply)
I'm pretty tired. I think I'll go home now...

And with that he just walks off down the road...

FORREST (OVER)
...And my runnin' days was over.

EXT. THE BUS BENCH, NEW ORLEANS - LATE AFTERNOON

The young woman dressed for a date, is gone. And a young couple, very much in love, sits down beside him.

FORREST
(smiles)
Hello, I'm Forrest. Forrest Gump.

THE YOUNG MAN
How're you doing?
(and proudly)
We just got married.

FORREST
Congratulations...
(after a beat)
I was married once...

And as he looks at a wedding band on his hand:

EXT. THE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD, MISSISSIPPI, 1980 - DAY

And we see Forrest, at peace, mowing the lawn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
One day out of the blue, I got a letter from Jenny wonderin' if I could come see her...

EXT. A CITY STREET, SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S. - DAY

And we see Forrest, wearing his good suit, holding a box of chocolates, getting out of a taxi in front of an apartment building.

INT. THE APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

He comes along a corridor to a door. He rings the bell. A moment, and the door opens. And Jenny, in her cocktail waitress uniform, is standing there.

JENNY
Hello, Forrest.

FORREST
(smiles)
Hello, Jenny...

He gives her the box of chocolates.

FORREST (cont'd)
(proud of himself)
I didn't eat a one.

She smiles.

JENNY
I'm so glad you're here...

And as she embraces him, holding onto him for dear life:

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - DAY

JENNY
(straightening up)
I'm sorry it's such a mess, I just got off work...

FORREST
(looking around)
...This is some place...You got a airconditioning and everything...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jenny smiles. And there's a knock on the door. Jenny goes to get it. And Forrest can't help himself, opening the box of chocolates, eating them. And a Woman, holding a little boy's hand (about six), comes in.

JENNY
Dorothy, this is my friend Forrest.

Forrest, his mouth filled with chocolates, mumbles a hello.

JENNY (cont'd)
Thanks for picking him up...I'm supposed to get my schedule changed next week.

THE YOUNG WOMAN
It's no problem...
(a beat)
I better go. My kids are waiting in the car. With any luck somebody's kidnapped them...

She smiles and leaves. The little Boy silently stares at Forrest.

JENNY
(to the little boy)
This is a very good friend of mine, Mr. Gump. Say hello to him.

THE LITTLE BOY
Hello, Mr. Gump.

FORREST
Hello.

THE LITTLE BOY
Can I watch T.V. now?

JENNY
(nods, smiles)
Just keep it low.

He crosses to turn on the T.V., sitting on the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST
(after a beat)
You're a mama, Jenny?

JENNY
(smiles)
I'm a mama.
(a beat, motioning to the little boy)
His name's Forrest...

FORREST
(startled)
Like me?

JENNY
(nods)
I named him after his father.

FORREST
(not understanding)
He got a father named Forrest, too?

JENNY
(tenderly)
You're his father, Forrest...

FORREST
Ahh, stop jokin' around...

JENNY
(quietly)
I thought it was time for you to meet each other.

Forrest doesn't know how to respond. He eats more chocolate instead.

JENNY (cont'd)
Look at me, Forrest.

He can't. She affectionately takes his face.

JENNY (cont'd)
Look at me.

And he looks at her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JENNY (cont'd)
(so he understands)
There's nothing you need to do. You didn't do anything wrong. You gave me life.

He looks at the little Boy.

JENNY (cont'd)
Isn't he beautiful?

FORREST
(nods, near tears)
The most beautiful thing I ever saw...

He's quiet. And he looks at her with his sweet sad eyes. And she knows what he's about to say:

JENNY
(shaking "no")
He's very smart...
(a beat)
One of the smartest in his class...

And overcome with emotion, he starts to cry. He childishly covers his face, embarrassed. He wipes his eyes. And after a moment he starts toward the little boy. He hesitates.

JENNY (cont'd)
(reassuring him)
It's okay.

Forrest crosses to sit on the floor next to him. He doesn't know what to say, so he just sits there with him watching television. Jenny quietly looks at them sitting together on the floor, their nearly identical postures, backs slightly hunched, the similiar napes of their necks, and both of them spontaneously laughing at something on television:

EXT. A CITY PARK - DAY

Little Forrest is playing on some equipment. Jenny and Forrest sit on a bench, watching him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
And she said something that tore me apart.

JENNY
I'm sick, Forrest.

FORREST
Sick?

JENNY
I have some kind of virus. The doctor's don't know what it is. There isn't anything they can do.
(simply)
I'm going to die, Forrest.

FORREST
Die? You can't die, Jenny.

She quietly takes his hand. And as they sit on the park bench watching their son play:

FORREST (OVER)
And I took them back home to Mississippi with me...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. "THE GUMP" HOUSE, MISSISSIPPI - DAY

And we see Forrest and Jenny, with their little Boy, coming up the walk of the old house.

FORREST (OVER)
Little Forrest stayed in my old room. Jenny and I stayed in mama's.

INT. "THE GUMP HOUSE" - NIGHT

Forrest and Jenny lying in bed together.

FORREST (OVER)
And Jenny asked me something I'll never forget.

JENNY
Would you marry me, Forrest?

EXT. "THE GUMP" HOUSE, MISSISSIPPI - DAY

FORREST (OVER)
We got married on a Thursday.

And we see Forrest in his one good suit, Jenny in a simple dress, with Little Forrest and a wedding party, standing under some weeping willow trees in the back yard.

FORREST (OVER)
Bubba's mama was there, and Stanley, and some of the nicer people of our little town...

And we see a man walking across the yard.

FORREST (OVER)
...And a friend came along, too...

As he comes closer we see it's Lt. Dan.

FORREST (OVER)
He had got him some new legs. And he was running for Senator from the great state of Louisiana...

EXT. "THE GUMP" HOUSE - DAY

And as they say their vows under the weeping willows:

FORREST (OVER)
We had a fall and a spring together...

The trees blowing in the breeze...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. "THE GUMP" HOUSE - ANOTHER DAY

We see Jenny lying in bed, painfully thin, suffering from the ravages of the disease. Forrest, quietly sits in a chair by the bed watching over her.

JENNY
Would you open the window, Forrest?

He opens the window for her. The warm sun falls on her face. He sits on the bed beside her. After some moments:

CONTINUED:

JENNY (cont'd)
Tell me what China was like...

FORREST
(after a beat)
Everybody rides around on bicycles...And they have the bluest sky I ever saw...

And we SEE what he's telling her. People riding bicycles under a clear blue sky.

FORREST (OVER)
And I told her what the stars looked like in Vietnam...

And we see the stars in Vietnam.

FORREST (OVER)
And the sunrise on the bayou...

A bayou sunrise.

FORREST (OVER)
And a Kansas wheat field. And a Colorado lake...

JENNY
I wish I could have been there with you.

FORREST
(looks at her, touching)
You were.

She's quiet, the sun on her face. And she simply says:

JENNY
I love you...

And as he holds her hand:

FORREST (OVER)
She died on a Saturday morning.

And we see in his MIND'S EYE Jenny's angel wings flutter and go still...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (OVER)
I had them bulldoze that house of her father's to the ground.

We see them razing the small shack.

FORREST (OVER)
And I layed Jenny to rest in the cotton field.

EXT. THE COTTON FIELD - DAY

A breeze is blowing the wildflowers in the overgrown field. And we see Forrest standing by Jenny's grave. And as if the breeze were calling them, a flock of birds fly out of the field. And as they fly far, far away...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. FORREST'S ROOM - NIGHT

Forrest sits on his son's bed, the little Boy reading to him.

FORREST JR.
"...Curious George reached over and tried to help himself, but -- instead of one balloon, the whole bunch broke loose. Up, up he sailed, higher and higher. The houses looked like toy houses and the people like dolls..."

And we see in Forrest's MIND'S EYE, in ANIMATION, Curious George, holding some balloons, looking down at the world below him. And as his son reads to him about the stupid monkey:

EXT. THE COUNTRY ROAD, MISSISSIPPI - DAY

Forrest's standing with his little boy in the country road, waiting for something. Some moments, and a School Bus pulls to a stop. The doors open. Little Forrest starts to get on. And Forrest stops him, about to tell him never to take rides from strangers.

FORREST JR.
What, daddy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

But what he says is:

FORREST
(a beat)
I just wanted to tell you I love you.

FORREST JR.
I love you too, daddy.

They hug. Little Forrest gets on the bus. And as the bus moves off along the country road, moving further and further into the distance, like years passing by, until it goes out of sight:

LONG DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE HIGH SCHOOL, MISSISSIPPI, 1992 - NIGHT

And we see Forrest, in his forties now, wearing his one good suit, crossing the High School football field to the gym.

INT. THE GYM - NIGHT

It's crowded. A banner says it's the Class of 1962's Thirtieth Reunion. And on a large screen they're showing a video presentation, photographs from the 1962 yearbook, the faces of the people in the class. A young Girl's photograph is on the screen:

AN ALUMNI
(reading)
...Andrea Bell. Andrea was an art major. She's an architect now, and lives with her husband and three children in Vicksburg, Mississippi...

Another Photograph. A young Boy.

THE ALUMNI (cont'd)
David Buhler. David was in the Future Farmers of America. He played on the football team...David was killed in 1970 in Vietnam.

And we see a photograph of Jenny, just a young Girl.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THE ALUMNI (cont'd)
Jenny Curran. Jenny was Homecoming Queen...Jenny was married, with one child...She died in Mississippi in 1980...

As Forrest looks at the photograph of his wife, and his lifelong friend:

FORREST (OVER)
Now, for some reason they said I was the most noteable in the class.

And we see Forrest's yearbook photograph. His stupid smile.

FORREST (OVER)
It sure didn't say much for that class...
(a beat)
Anyways they asked me to say something...

Forrest awkwardly goes up on the stage. He stupidly looks at the people, not knowing what to say. After some moments:

FORREST
...Now, I don't know if mama, or Lt. Dan was right. If we got a destiny, or we're just floatin' around, accidental-like, in the breeze. Some people was born to be garbage men. Some people was born to be presidents. Some people was born to be smart, some people was born to be stupid...
(shrugs)
That's the way it is...Like mama said, you got to make the best of what God gave you...
(his stupid smile)
Life is sure a box of chocolates...

EXT. THE COUNTRY ROAD IN MISSISSIPPI - NIGHT

A full moon's out. And we see Forrest walking home. And for no particular reason he starts to jog, and pretty soon he's running, and there's the sound of a CROWD roaring.

INT. A UNIVERSITY STADIUM - DAY

We see Forrest in the stands. And we see he's watching Little Forrest, a young man now, carrying the football. And he's running, fleetfooted like his father, exhilirated, running like a deer to the end zone. And as Forrest comes to his feet, cheering along with everybody else:

EXT. THE BUS BENCH IN NEW ORLEANS, THE PRESENT - LATE AFTERNOON

The young married couple are long since gone. A middle aged Black Woman, with some shopping bags, not paying any attention to him, has taken their place.

FORREST
Bubba-Gump Shrimp was sold to a Japanese company.

And we see the famous Talking Shrimp:

THE TALKING SHRIMP
(speaking Japanese)
"If it isn't Bubba-Gump, it isn't shrimp."

EXT. THE BUS BENCH, NEW ORLEANS - LATE AFTERNOON

FORREST
Lt. Dan ran for President.

EXT. A CAMPAIGN STOP - DAY

Lt. Dan on the stump campaigning.

EXT. THE BUS BENCH, NEW ORLEANS - LATE AFTERNOON

Forrest sitting with the middle-aged Black Woman.

FORREST
(after a beat)
...And me...
(his smile)
Well, lately, I've just been kinda floatin' around in the breeze...

A Bus pulls up. And the Woman, gathering her things, gets on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FORREST (cont'd)
(after her)
It's been nice talkin' to you...

The Bus pulls off. Forrest quietly sits on the bus bench. It's dusk. The lights starting to come on. He gets his things together. He takes a candy kiss out of his pocket, popping it in his mouth. And getting up, he starts along the sidewalk. And he sees a flock of birds suddenly take off from the eaves of a building. He watches them as they fly higher and higher until they go out of sight. And as he turns, moving off along the street, until he disappears in the crowd....We see one of the bird's feathers, lighter then air, floating, like time passing, slowly floating by. And as a breeze takes it, moving it here and there, to land somewhere else, either by accident or design...

FORREST'S VOICE (OVER)
Hello, I'm Forrest. Forrest Gump.

FADE OUT:

-The End-